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Summer 2019

## USD Magazine Summer 2019

University of San Diego

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# USD MAGAZINE



UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2019

## AN EXTRAORDINARY EXHIBITION

*Michelangelo's work has never before been exhibited in San Diego. It will be seen this fall on the University of San Diego campus along with that of other Italian Renaissance artists.*



## DEAR TOREROS,

There have been many rewarding accomplishments at the University of San Diego over the course of this academic year.

Of particular note is the recent generous \$2.6 million pledge by Ron and Alexis Fowler, which will help USD advance its efforts to develop global ethical and responsible leaders committed to the common good through social innovation and social entrepreneurship. The Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge will build upon the success of the Social Innovation Challenge, which was launched in 2011 as a joint program of the School of Business and the Kroc School of Peace Studies.

Our faculty members continue to shine on the national and global stage. They are publishing acclaimed research and inspiring students and peers with their expertise and unquenchable quest for knowledge. For details of their many accomplishments, take a look at our Faculty Newsnotes, which can be found online at [sandiego.edu/fnn](http://sandiego.edu/fnn).

USD students are also being acknowledged for their proficiency and problem-solving abilities. For example, this spring, a team of students from the School of Business' Master of Science in Real Estate program were awarded first place in the 2019 ARGUS University Challenge, the seventh time that the university's ARGUS team has taken top honors.

The university also faced challenges this year. Obviously, we were shocked and saddened to learn about allegations reflected in the Department of Justice's admissions investigation this spring. The Board of Trustees appointed a special committee to oversee the university's response. The special committee, chaired by Dr. Constance Carroll, has met regularly since mid-March, and the full Board of Trustees continues to be updated. The actions by our trustees demonstrate their adherence to strong governance practices and an ongoing commitment to the highest levels of integrity in our admissions process. We engaged a law firm to conduct an independent investigation. The investigation is ongoing and is proceeding as expeditiously as possible, consistent with our commitment to a thorough review. We still have no reason to believe that any current or former employees, students or applicants — other than the three individuals identified by the government — were aware of or involved in any wrongdoing. If new or different information comes to our attention, through the investigation or otherwise, we will take appropriate action to respond.

I want to express my thanks to those of you who have reached out with your thoughts, care and concern. Find the latest update regarding this issue at [sandiego.edu/president](http://sandiego.edu/president) under Campus Messages.

With Commencement upon us, we share the excitement that radiates throughout campus as we approach this culmination of our students' journeys. We know that great things are ahead for them as they embark upon the next chapter of their lives.

The University of San Diego remains steadfast in its commitment to upholding the dignity of every person and fulfilling our vision of setting the standard for an engaged, contemporary Catholic university where innovative Changemakers confront humanity's urgent challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James T. Harris III".

James T. Harris III, DEd  
President



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**[usd magazine]**

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**[torero notes]**

Torero Notes may be edited for length and clarity. Photos must be high resolution, so adjust camera settings accordingly. Engagements, pregnancies, personal email addresses and telephone numbers cannot be published.

Please note that content for *USD Magazine* has a long lead time. Our current publishing schedule is as follows: Torero Notes received between Jan. 1-May 1 appear in the Fall edition; those received May 1-Sept. 1 appear in the Spring edition; those received between Sept. 1-Jan. 1 appear in the Summer edition.

Email Torero Notes to [classnotes@sandiego.edu](mailto:classnotes@sandiego.edu) or mail them to the address below.

**[mailing address]**

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**[be blue go green]**

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# USD MAGAZINE

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO / SUMMER 2019

## FEATURES

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### 16 / AN EXTRAORDINARY EXHIBITION

The University of San Diego's Hoehn Family Galleries will host *Christ: Life, Death and Resurrection* — an exhibition from September 13 to December 13 of original Italian Renaissance art that includes Michelangelo's *The Three Crosses*. Many of the works in the exhibit, held in collaboration with the British Museum, have never been seen before in California.

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Michelangelo, *The Three Crosses*, c. 1520, red chalk and wash, ©The Trustees of the British Museum

#### CENTER ILLUSTRATION:

Camillo Procaccini, *The Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor*, c. 1587-90, etching, ©The Trustees of the British Museum

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As the only Catholic university in the nation situated less than 30 miles from our southern border, USD is committed to supporting those who have been marginalized. We've gathered firsthand stories from folks on both sides of the border in hopes of breaching the divide and finding commonalities.



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Ted Boutrous '87 (JD) took on a landmark case as one of the lead lawyers representing CNN after reporter Jim Acosta's press credentials were revoked by the White House this past fall. Boutrous is adamant that this is not an issue about a particular president, but rather about a precedent: suppressing freedom of the press.

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Elazar Harel isn't just USD's Interim CIO, he's also a prolific photographer with an impressively massive following.



# FROM THE GROUND UP

*by Timothy McKernan*

of San Diego is still under construction and renovation. The Renaissance Plan — a 10-year effort of renewal and new construction launched in 2016 — calls for upgrades to existing facilities and new construction, including a Learning Commons behind Copley Library and a facility for the School of Business.

of the most beautiful campuses  
in the nation.

USD's co-founders, Bishop Charles Buddy and Mother Rosalie Hill, were a formidable pair. The outgoing, personable prelate was the public face of the effort to build the Catholic colleges in the newly created Diocese of San Diego — its smiling, glad-handing adrenaline. The reserved reverend mother became its project manager.

It was Bishop Buddy who in



COURTESY OF USD ARCHIVES

1947 took the stage at Balboa Park's Organ Pavilion for a rally for the University Foundation Fund that also featured Pat O'Brien, a Hollywood star famous for his roles as a priest.

"Look out there at all those young people," the first bishop of the San Diego diocese enthused to the overflow crowd of some 3,000, gesturing to a group of parochial school children. "Do you think they are worth a good university?"

Long before that "good university" began to take shape, Mother Hill had determined that the school's architecture would echo the Spanish Renaissance style of the Universidad de Henares in Alcalá, Spain, home of the

city's namesake, San Diego. While the distinctive structural design is synonymous with USD today, it was not a universally popular choice at the time.

In a USD History Project interview, the late Sister Sally Furay recalled the bishop himself wondered about the "imitative style." But Mother Hill was adamant. "Mother Hill would say Spanish Renaissance in one or another of its forms had been in style in Southern California for 200 years, and will be for the next 200. She said, 'If I build modern in 1950, it will be out of date by 1975.'"

The reverend mother attended to the smallest details. As workers were installing carved mahogany doors at the main entrance to the College for Women, Mother Hill interceded with instructions on how to better hang them. "Lady," a worker sighed, "you must expect these doors to last a hundred years." Mother Hill's quiet reply: "My good man, I expect them to last 300 years."

Not everyone was impressed by her vision. In a 1959 *San Diego Magazine* piece titled "University of San Diego: An Architectural Failure," longtime San Diego art and architecture critic James Britton compared the young campus to a cemetery. One can only wonder what Britton might have thought in 2017, when *The Princeton Review* named USD the most beautiful campus in the nation.

Sister Virginia Rodee '57 thinks Bishop Buddy and Mother Hill would be pleasantly surprised if they could see USD at age 70.

"I think they'd be amazed at the technology and some of the other modern advances, but I think they'd feel right at home today," Rodee says. "And that's not just because the architecture has remained consistent. The campus has the same welcoming, loving, family feel now as it did then. I can't imagine that being different, even in another 70 years." 🙏

## [ AROUND THE PARK ]

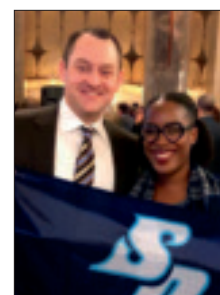
### The Brink Is the Best

In its first year, The Brink, the Small Business Development Center at USD, was named the top accelerator in San Diego by the *San Diego Business Journal*. Startup accelerators support early-stage, growth-driven companies through education, mentorship and financing. Director Mysty Rusk (pictured) attributes the center's success to it being "industry agnostic," accepting clients from all industries, rather than working with a specific subset.



### Engineers Take Flight

In late March, 18 USD engineering students attended the annual conference of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) in Detroit. The students were joined by Matt Craig '03 (BS/BA), who is shown here alongside Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering Assistant Director Rhonda Harley. The conference theme was "Explore. Engineer. Elevate." Along with conference offerings, the group spent time at the highly acclaimed Cass Technical High School and attended a Red Wings ice hockey game.



### Meet the President

USD's 2019 President for a Day is Tiffany Zhang '19 (pictured), a behavioral neuroscience major. She switched places with Dr. Harris while he attended her classes and fulfilled her other campus obligations. Zhang is general manager and captain of Women's Club Soccer, vice president of the Nonprofit Student Association and a Torero Wellness Peer Educator. She has selected the Linda Vista Multicultural Fair to be the recipient of the \$1,000 charitable contribution that the university awards of their behalf.



### Cybersecurity Accolades

The University of San Diego recently received the Ties that Bind Award from InfraGard, a partnership between the FBI and members of the private sector. The award recognized USD's Cybersecurity Executive Course, which was offered by the School of Engineering's Center for CyberSecurity Engineering and Technology. "This type of collaboration represents our commitment to making San Diego one of the leading hubs for cybersecurity in the U.S. We look forward to doing even more," said Dean Chell Roberts (pictured).





[generosity]

# ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Celebrating USD's 32nd Annual Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon



by Krystn Shrieve

**R**itamarie Smedile, BSN, MSN-ENL '20, RN, a graduate student in the Hahn School of Nursing's executive nurse leadership program, is a true Changemaker.

She was one of three students and two benefactors who shared stories of how scholarships change lives at the 32nd Annual Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon in March 2019.

Each year the event highlights

a different school or program at the university. This year's focus was on USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, which was established in 1974. Today, it's among the top Catholic graduate nursing schools in the nation. In 2017 and 2018, USD's nursing students contributed more than 105,000 hours serving the community.

Smedile is no stranger to service. After graduating with

her bachelor's degree in nursing nearly 10 years ago, she signed on as a volunteer at an all-boys orphanage in rural Honduras called Amigos de Jesus, and later worked for the orphanage again, this time as the stateside director of the head office in Philadelphia.

But she needed more.

So, Smedile began praying, asking God to show her a sign. That's when she learned about the executive nurse leadership program at

USD's School of Nursing.

"I felt a ping in my heart," she told a crowd of more than 400 students and donors during this year's luncheon. "This program felt like the perfect next step to integrate my clinical nurse experience with my passion for management and leadership."

She subsequently became a recipient of the Dean's merit scholarship — yet another sign that she was doing the right thing.

"I hope to pay it forward one day and continue the evolution of nursing through education," she says. "It is with a full and grateful heart that I say, 'thank you.'"

Gratitude is at the heart of the Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon. Students come face-to-face with the benefactors who made their scholarships possible, and benefactors meet the students who bring their philanthropy to life.

Trustee Emeritus Richard P. Woltman established the Richard and Kaye Woltman Endowed Scholarship Fund. He served on USD's Board of Trustees for more than 15 years, starting in 1972 when the San Diego College for Men, the San Diego College for Women and the School of Law merged to become what is now the University of San Diego.

"The word 'philanthropy' has always carried a certain romance with it," said Woltman. "It is made up of two Greek words — *philos*, which means love, and *anthropy*, which is mankind. Philanthropy, which means the love of mankind, helped build this university. Scholarships are another great form of philanthropy and, for all of you who have received a scholarship, you should feel very loved."

USD Vice President for University Advancement Rick Virgin said the recently completed *Leading Change* fundraising campaign established 233 new scholarships.

"Think of the ripple effect," Virgin said. "Behind each one of those scholarships are the benefactors who had a vision and the students who were given opportunities, experiences, connections and support that changed their lives.

"That's what you're doing," Virgin added. "You're changing lives — the lives of our students. Their stories are now a part of your story. Their successes will forever be a part of your legacy." 🌐

Make your own gift to benefit students at [sandiego.edu/giving](https://sandiego.edu/giving).

# MEET JAKE MILLGARD '16



ZACHARY BARRON

**A** graduate of The Old Globe USD Graduate Acting MFA Program, Jake hails from Spokane, Washington. He knew his career path early on: "It was either going to be baseball or acting." But in sixth grade it all clicked. As the Woodsman in his school's production of *Blame It on the Wolf*, Millgard's tiny, relatively understated role sprung to life.

"It was the smallest part in the play and no one else took it seriously," he recalls. Since then, this actor with 15 years of professional experience has taken on stage, film and television roles. Baseball? Not so much. The self-proclaimed "acting supergeek," says it's all about "figuring out what makes a character tick." Millgard's never-ending character study is key to an accurate and rewarding portrayal. His first-choice roles? The "unlikeables."

That said, this actor's true north is "the ease and effortlessness" of the undeniably likeable Jimmy Stewart combined with the humor, breadth and depth of actors like John C. Reilly. "I always like people who are very funny, but who don't get locked into that." Another rule to live by for Millgard is fearlessness: "I'm not afraid of them," he says. By "them," he means the audience.

A storyteller at heart, Millgard's hope is to be remembered for doing what he loves. Fame, fortune and awards might be nice, but at his core, he's still the sixth-grader relishing the applause and connection he felt way back when as the Woodsman. — Allyson Meyer '16



Sharp HealthCare's Dan Gross '97 (DNsc), at far left, Pablo Velez '06 (PhD), center, and Susan Stone '93 (MSN), '08 (PhD), right, hold some of the most influential health care leadership positions in the region.

[triumverate]

# HEALTH CARE HOTSHOTS

Three stars from USD's School of Nursing shine

by Karen Gross

The Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science consistently ranks among the top programs in the nation, in large part due to its stellar graduate nursing training and innovative research. Nowhere is the school's imprint more impressive than in San Diego, where alumni hold some of the most influential leadership positions in the region.

Three now hold some of the highest offices at Sharp HealthCare; each benefited from a full scholarship endowed

by Marion Hubbard specifically for doctoral nursing education at USD.

Dan Gross '97 (DNsc) is Sharp's executive vice president for hospital operations. "I'd had a very strong and successful career here at Sharp," he says, reflecting on a career that started in the surgical ICU in 1979 and took him up the leadership ladder over the ensuing years.

"I was thinking about academics, research, advanced leadership roles at Sharp. I wanted to make sure that no door was closed." Encouraged by colleagues who'd already earned their doctorates and enticed by the Hubbard scholarship, which made the program economically feasible, he enrolled in 1995.

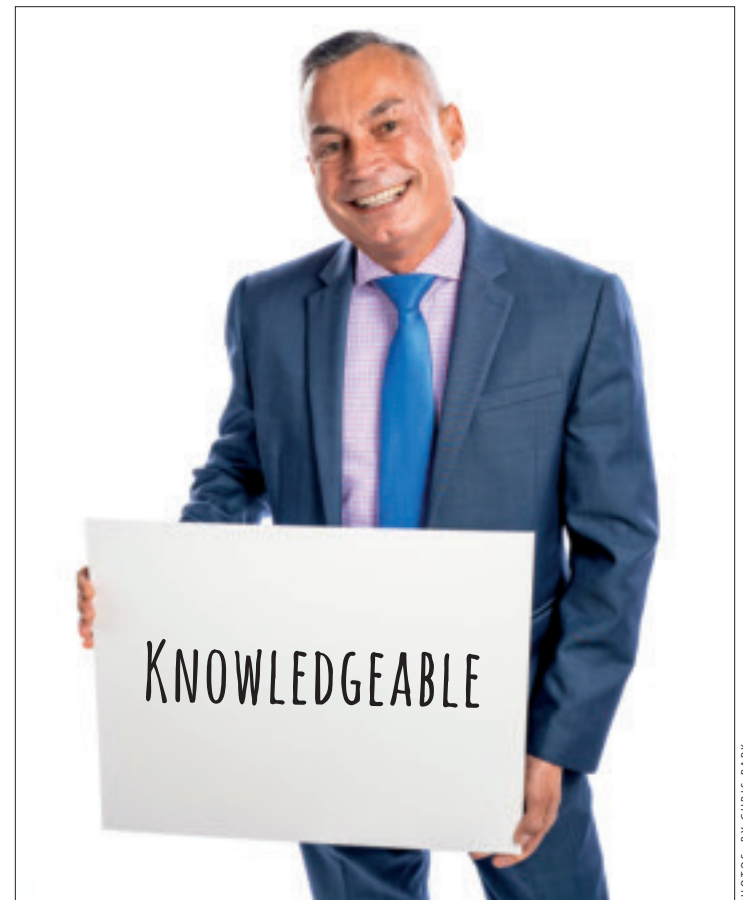
"The other thing that attracted me was the curriculum design. Beyond the core requirements there was a lot of flexibility," he says.

"I took quite a bit of coursework in USD's schools of education and business. Being focused on leadership at the time, this was the perfect doctoral program for me."

Gross completed his doctorate in three years. Today, he is effectively the Chief Operating Officer of the entire Sharp HealthCare system.

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PHOTOS BY CHRIS PARK

"One of the truly most valuable things about a doctoral education is you learn to think more critically. You learn to really look at the literature and see what others have done before making a big decision," he says. "Hospitals today are all about the team, clinical outcomes and clinical care delivery. Who more than a nurse has that global, comprehensive view?"

Pablo Velez '06 (PhD) already

had a master's degree and years of work experience when he decided it was time to fulfill his ultimate dream.

"I wanted more knowledge, but I also did it for personal reasons," says Velez, who was born in Puerto Rico and attended high school and college there. "I was just the second person in my family to go to college. It's a lot of work, going back to school. But once you're

done, you have this amazing feeling of accomplishment.”

By the time he enrolled in the doctoral program, Velez was working as chief nursing officer at Sharp Chula Vista. “I wanted to do something that was valuable to me as an employee of an organization,” he says. “It’s why I took all my electives in the School of Leadership and Education Sciences, and why my research looked at organizational trust.”

For the past decade, Velez has served as CEO of the only Sharp hospital he’s ever worked at, overseeing a staff of 1,600 and managing construction of a gleaming new \$244 million tower. He’s still a firm believer in higher education and is quick to encourage colleagues who may be considering it.

“I think the entire community benefits from the graduate nursing program,” he says. “When nurses come back here with knowledge of clinical research and evidence-based practice, it’s not just the hospital that benefits. We elevate the level of care for our patients.”

Over the course of her 30-plus years at Sharp HealthCare, Susan Stone ’93 (MSN), ’08 (PhD) has made an indelible mark. Beginning as an undergraduate nursing student, she advanced through the leadership ranks and crisscrossed among its hospitals. Along the way, she collected countless awards and implemented a groundbreaking patient care

model that became the subject of her PhD dissertation.

“I initially thought I’d be a nursing professor,” she says. “After implementing many community-wide health care improvement initiatives, I recognized the opportunity to make a difference on a larger scale. I’m grateful to Sharp HealthCare and Marion Hubbard. I never imagined I’d be in the position I am today.”

As CEO of Sharp Coronado, Stone runs a full-service community hospital and often draws upon her graduate nursing skills to analyze research and statistics in decision-making. “I know of probably 40 nurses at Sharp who have gone through the program and are now publishing and making a difference while showing how nursing practice can really influence patient care and community wellness,” she says.

“When people ask me whether they should pursue a PhD, my unfailing answer is ‘Yes! It will give you knowledge in nursing leadership but it will also give you choices as your career goes on.’ I’ve never regretted my decision for one moment.”



[ s u s t e n a n c e ]

## PARENTS’ POWER

**Holistic support for at-risk students**

by Timothy McKernan

**T**he USD Parent Board has voted to increase support to at-risk students and Torero Renaissance Scholars, those who were once in the foster-care system and are homeless or at risk of being homeless, and experience food insecurity.

Vice President of Student Life Cynthia Avery began a fund in 2012 to help cover tuition, food and housing expenses as well as books and supplies for these students.

Parent Board member Marco Alessio ’84 says he and his wife Kimberly ’87, now president-elect of the Alumni Association Board, became acutely aware of food and housing insecurity at their son’s college in the Northwest. And on this campus, some students had to choose between paying for food and housing or paying for a textbook.

“We were stunned to hear these issues existed at USD,”

Alessio says. “Taking the knowledge I had gained at my son’s school, I brought this to the Parents Association Board. As a result, a larger food pantry was established, then stocked. The pantry also provides everyday necessities as well as clothing for interviews and internships that these students need.”

With the recent Parent Board vote, the Parent Partnership Fund will now further assist these students.

“We realize there’s a social engagement component that rounds out the university experience which is not being met,” Alessio says. “It’s easy to pretend these aren’t issues at USD but that’s not the case. This is our first step in a long journey to help students with the most need. We are USD and service begins with us.”

To learn more, email [parents@sandiego.edu](mailto:parents@sandiego.edu).



Second-year student Alexa Gonzalez was among those who took part in Half Time, a two-day reflective retreat meant to inspire a renewed sense of purpose.

[faith in action]

# WHO WILL I BECOME?

Second-year students examine big questions



MARSHALL WILLIAMS

by Allyson Meyer '16

**A**n early morning begins with a not-so-simple question: "How do you want to be remembered?" Whatever the answer, the idea behind examining this question is about refocusing, contemplating and evaluating one's life.

For the past five years, University Ministry, in collaboration with the Career Development Center,

the Mulvaney Center and other University of San Diego campus and community partners, has hosted Half Time, a two day, reflective retreat for second-year students to evaluate the direction of their life.

While this retreat is not dissimilar to years past, a new group of wide-eyed students took the time this spring to take stock, look

toward the future and examine ways in which they might take the next step toward discovering exactly who they want to become.

Gathering in the comfort of a campus residence hall, students engaged in discussions that encouraged the exploration of their ultimate hopes and dreams. Occurring halfway through these students' undergraduate experi-

ences, the program is designed to connect with students in a comprehensive way.

Program coordinator Aly Monteleone says that is precisely what a USD education is all about.

"One of University Ministry's ultimate goals is to support students holistically, and Half Time provides an opportunity to do so quite well. The experiences taps


students academically, socially, spiritually and communally,” says Monteleone.

“They see — perhaps for the first time — that their education comes with great responsibility, that authentic and healthy relationships are crucial to a life well-lived, that God desires the best for them, but likewise asks the best from them, and that there’s opportunity, joy, human need and resilience just outside the walls of this campus,” she says. “Given this, we hope students walk away with a renewed sense of purpose and a stronger understanding of who they’re called to become.”

Through career panels, vocation discussions, reflective exercises and community engagement experiences, students are provided with an introduction to their futures and given the tools to contemplate what’s next.

“Who am I called to be and become? What am I called to be, rather than what things do I want to have in my life?” asked Reverend Christopher Carter, PhD, an assistant professor of theology and religious studies. Silence filled the room as the students absorbed the seemingly simple yet complex statement.

The retreat’s emphasis is for students to find the thing that brings them joy. Rather than material goods, students are encouraged to explore their life’s purpose. As a blend of career advice and spiritual self-exploration, the program presents students with thought-provoking questions and encourages contemplation.

These are, again, big questions. But simply determining what career path a student should take after graduation isn’t the point. Rather, understanding who they want to be as contributing, passionate human beings is of primary importance. As a university focused on educating a student’s mind, body and spirit, retreats such as Half Time encourage spiritual contemplation and the exploration of a meaningful future. 

[ h a r m o n y ]

# IMPACTING THE WORLD

**Kroc School establishes new peacebuilding initiative**



ILLUSTRATION BY GREG SHED

by Krystn Shrieve

**M**ilt Lauenstein has long sought world peace. He’s done his part by launching and supporting peacebuilding endeavors, including the Purdue Peace Project, which has successfully supported locally led peacebuilding in Africa and Central America.

Recently, Lauenstein (pictured) gave \$1 million to the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ) to establish Impact:Peace. As part of the agreement, USD has agreed to establish a challenge to raise an additional \$1 million in matching funds.

The goal is threefold: to increase financial support for peacebuilding activities; to promote collaboration in the peacebuilding community, and to research where resources will do the most good and have the highest impact.

“Efforts to limit armed conflict are fragmented and inadequate, with little evidence about where best to allocate resources,” says Lauenstein. “I’m confident that the work of Impact:Peace will contribute significantly to improving the effectiveness of efforts to promote peace.”

IPJ Director Andrew Blum, PhD, says partnering with influencers in the peacebuilding process and providing research and evidence that will inform their tactics, improve their policies, enhance their efforts and broaden their success is key.

“There are really exciting things happening in the peacebuilding field around the world,” Blum says. “Through this initiative, we can have a real impact.”

Blum says the timing is vital: Over the past 10 years, there has been a spike in global

violent conflicts, following a more than 60-year decline since the end of World War II. He cites those six decades as proof that society understands how to reduce violent conflicts and that there are solutions. The quest for world peace is not a hopeless cause.

Will movements — such as the proposal to create a shift of one percent from military to peacebuilding budgets worldwide — have real impact? And how can we ensure they do?

“We plan to build a platform here at USD that can create and deliver this kind of evidence to these influencers,” Blum says. “Our core mission, our tagline, is ‘Learning to end violence.’ That’s our goal — to really make a difference in the world.” 

Learn more at [impactpeace.org](http://impactpeace.org).



**Ron Fowler, former chair of USD's Board of Trustees, has long been a champion of USD's Changemaker mission. He and his wife, Alexis, recently gave \$2.6 million to USD to promote entrepreneurship.**

[visionary]

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**Fowler gift will inspire a generation of students**



LUIS GARCIA

by Krystn Shrieve

**F**ormer USD Board of Trustees Chair Ron Fowler and his wife, Alexis, recently gave \$2.6 million to USD to promote entrepreneurship endeavors through a new partnership between the University of San Diego and his alma mater, the University of St. Thomas. In addition, Ron and Alexis have encouraged USD to establish a matching challenge to double the gift and double its impact.

The majority of the gift, \$2.5 million, will support social innovation at USD through what will now be known worldwide

as the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge.

"I've always been a champion of USD's Changemaker mission," says Ron Fowler, who was serving as chair of USD's Board of Trustees when the university became the first university on the West Coast designated as an Ashoka Changemaker Campus.

"It's been an honor to witness the countless ways USD has made a difference in the community, across the nation and around the world. And now I'm proud to bolster that spirit of social innova-

tion, not just at USD, but also at my own alma mater."

The Social Innovation Challenge was established in 2011. It was renamed the Global Social Innovation Challenge in 2018 and will now bear the Fowler name. This year, the challenge is expected to award more than \$50,000 in seed funding to the winning proposals, presented by student teams from 12 countries on six continents. The Fowlers' gift will also help the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota to establish a similar program in its


School of Entrepreneurship.

Patricia Márquez, dean of USD's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, says Ron Fowler is a lifelong visionary whose gift will inspire an entire generation of students. She believes it will start a worldwide movement in which students apply their knowledge in innovative ways to solve humanity's most challenging problems with a vast array of tools, technologies and opportunities.

"This gift means students around the world can roll up their sleeves and build what needs to be built," Márquez says. "It will expand the movement beyond just USD and the University of St. Thomas, and inspire students to shape a better world."

The balance of the gift will be used to establish the Fowler Business Concept Challenge at USD, similar to a program already offered at the University of St. Thomas.

In the case of both the Fowler Business Concept Challenge and the Fowler Global Social Innovation Challenge, great work at one university is being replicated at another, therefore propelling social innovation on both campuses.

"That's Ron Fowler's great vision," Márquez says. "If one university can do so much, imagine what 20 or 30 or 100 universities from around the world can do. The Fowlers are making this possible with their generosity." 

## [Travel Plans]

Studying abroad is a big piece of the USD student experience. Soon it can be part of the USD alumni experience as well. Several locations are under consideration for the inaugural trip of the Torero Travel Program, expected to launch in the spring of 2020. "We want to create new opportunities for Toreros to connect and this seems ideal," says Alumni Association Senior Director Charles Bass. "It's a natural extension of the Torero student experience, without the exams and term papers."



## [Torero Takeover]

The third annual Torero Takeover will take place on June 8. Aimed at the more than 25,000 alumni who live throughout San Diego County, a multitude of social, educational and physical activities are scheduled, including several affiliated with alumni-owned businesses and organizations.

From a morning yoga session to a Tiny Toreros playdate to a service hour at the San Diego Food Bank, there is something to interest Toreros of every era. Tickets to attend one or more events are \$10 and include a commemorative T-shirt to wear during the Torero Takeover. Learn more at [sandiego.edu/takeover2019](http://sandiego.edu/takeover2019).



## [connection]

# SHARING FAITH AND SERVICE

## Franciscan School of Theology relocates to USD

by *Julene Snyder*

This summer, the Franciscan School of Theology (FST) will relocate to the University of San Diego campus from its current home in Oceanside, California.

The graduate-level school has a mission to prepare women and men for professional ministry in the Roman Catholic Church, careers in theological education and living a life dedicated to solidarity with those on the margins of society.

"Our move builds upon our relationship with USD and provides FST an opportunity to explore new ways of expressing and sharing our faith and service," says FST President Father Michael Higgins (pictured), who's excited about having his school and its students physically on USD's campus.

"This will allow our students to take advantage of USD's student services. And being in close proximity will let us build upon our affiliation even more."

In 2013, USD and FST entered into an affiliation agreement that allows FST graduate students to enroll in selected USD graduate courses as well as in certain undergraduate philosophy courses. Likewise, USD students may complement their graduate education with select coursework in theological studies through FST.

"Even though FST will remain an independent graduate school of theology, we hope to be active collaborators with the great USD faculty here on campus," says Father Higgins.

"We're excited about bringing together the spiritual, theological and social riches of the Fran-

ciscan tradition and USD's excellence in contemporary sciences, nonprofit management, public service, peace work and more. USD's strong dedication to its Catholic heritage and its vibrant Catholic community create a supportive environment for graduate studies in theology in the Franciscan intellectual tradition," says Father Higgins.

FST temporary facilities at USD will be located adjacent to the St. Francis Center for Priestly Formation.

"As an anchor institution for the region, we look forward to warmly welcoming FST faculty and graduate students to the USD campus community in the coming months," says USD

President James T. Harris.

Father Higgins is a living example of the benefits of academic inquiry. After entering the Franciscan community at the age of 27, he subsequently earned a master's in divinity, a second master's in sacred theology, and a third master's in spirituality. He then received a doctorate in Franciscan history and spirituality along with a PhD in higher education administration.

He's well aware that having so many degrees is a bit unusual. "I didn't start out trying to collect degrees," he says. "But it just seemed a natural progression in getting the intellectual and academic background necessary to do ministry well." 🌐



ZACHARY BARRON



Golden States Warriors Assistant Coach Mike Brown '93 (below right) is just one of a group of Toreros who have coached, drafted or been connected to many of the NBA's most elite players.

[unity]

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## Former Toreros form an NBA brotherhood



by Ryan T. Blystone

If you're looking for the definition of stellar success in NBA leadership, a group of seven Toreros are at the front of the pack.

Bernie Bickerstaff '68 (BA), James Borrego '00 (BA), Mike Brown '93 (BBA), Hank Egan, David Fizdale '97 (BA), Chris Grant '94 (BA), '96 (MEd) and Eric Musselman '87 (BA) have coached, drafted or been connected to many of the NBA's most elite players, including luminaries like

LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Kobe Bryant and Michael Jordan.

The USD connection is an enduring thread. "It started with Mike Brown," Egan recalls. "I was USD head coach and Bernie was the general manager of the Denver Nuggets. [Then-Athletic Director] Ky Snyder and I were in Colorado for a USD game. We talked about it in the car, met with Bernie and told him what Mike wanted to do."

Brown's idea was born when

he'd learned that veteran NBA coach and executive Bickerstaff's pathway to the professional ranks from playing and coaching for USD did not require first playing in the league.

A light bulb went on. All Brown wanted was a shot.

"Bernie said, 'We don't have interns, but maybe we should,'" Egan recalls. Brown went to work as an unpaid video coordinator. "Mike did a terrific job. He became an ambassador for other

guys. They'd volunteer during summer league and hook up with the NBA teams. It went from there," Egan explains.

Twenty-seven years later, Brown's NBA resumé includes three NBA championships, two head coaching jobs and NBA Coach of the Year. Today he's a top assistant with the two-time defending NBA champion, the Golden State Warriors.

Brown's in good company. Fizdale and Borrego are now NBA head coaches with the New York Knicks and Charlotte Hornets, respectively. Bickerstaff is a senior advisor with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Grant, former Cavaliers' general manager, is a San Antonio Spurs scout. Musselman is a former two-time NBA head coach with Golden State and Sacramento.

Egan's initial meeting with Bickerstaff has a permanent reminder for visitors: it's part of a wall mural near current Men's Basketball Head Coach Sam Scholl's office. "It's one of our key selling points, for sure," says Scholl '01 (BA), a former USD player and assistant who was coached by Fizdale and subsequently worked at his side and as an assistant to Borrego.

"After we talk to prospective players about the education they'll receive, about the campus and people they'll be around, the mural is right there."

Brown has returned to campus to speak to the team and offer encouragement, and is a big advocate of the pipeline.

"It all started with Bernie, with him giving me hope to work in the NBA without playing in the league," Brown recalls.

Says Fizedale, whose opening was with Musselman at Golden State: "You always want to try and pull another guy up from the team and give them an opportunity to learn their craft and be a part of this league."

Egan, USD head coach from 1984-94, left USD to be an assistant in San Antonio and was with the Spurs for their 1999 NBA title run. He then left that post to assist Musselman when he got his first head coaching job at Golden State in 2002. Brown hired Egan when he was named Cleveland's head coach in 2005.

Bickerstaff, the original NBA Torero, played at USD from 1964-66, was an assistant under Coach Phil Woolpert and became head coach in 1969. He took an assistant coaching job with the Washington Bullets in 1973, starting an NBA life that's included five head coaching stints, two general manager posts and assorted executive roles.

"We've got to keep this going. It's a great group of guys we have in the league," he says.

"We should help the program, get behind the athletics department. We owe USD a great deal."

Two years ago, Brown and Grant started a reunion dinner for the NBA Toreros. Thirty attended that dinner and attendance nearly doubled in 2018.

"The NBA Torero Family Gathering is uniquely special to USD," says USD Athletics Director Bill McGillis. "It's a tribute to the foundation laid by so many men who wore the blue jersey, graced the Sports Center or JCP sideline as a coach, or otherwise contributed to building our program. The NBA Torero family is a gift to today's program and players." 🏀

# GETTING TO KNOW ...



ZACHARY BARRON

## ADDIE PICHA

**AGE:** 22 **HOMETOWN:** Puyallup, Washington  
**CREDENTIALS:** USD volleyball's two-time All-WCC middle blocker was selected to the U.S.

Women's Collegiate National Team and was an AVCA All-America honorable mention as a junior. As a senior she helped lead the Toreros to the program's fourth NCAA Tournament Third Round appearance and was named to the AVCA Pacific South All-Region team.

**GAME-TIME RITUALS:** "I always wear headphones until I'm in my gear and ready to go. This year, we had navy socks and light blue socks; I wore one of each on game days. And my right ankle brace always goes on first. There's also a song the whole team sang before every game, but I can't say what it is. It's a team thing." **PSYCHING UP:** "I majored in psychology because I like talking to people and meeting new people. I'm learning to understand why different types of people act certain ways." **OUCH:** "My family has a berry farm and a pumpkin patch, so I'm not afraid to get dirty. The pumpkins are harvested off the vine and put in little piles. My brothers and their friends would go out and form a pumpkin-tossing relay to bring them in. I'd be at the end and load them on the truck. At the end of the day my back would just be killing me. Pumpkins are so heavy!" **GO ON:** "I'm an assistant coach for 17- and 18-year-olds at Coast Volleyball Club. I absolutely love it. I'd like to be a graduate assistant or an assistant coach at the college level. And having a psychology degree will really help with that!"



*Right: Giovanni de'Vecchi, Design for a chapel decoration with the Resurrection, c. 1550-1600, brush drawing in brown and mauve wash with white over black and red chalk, ©The Trustees of the British Museum*

*The Hoehn Family Galleries presents*

# **AN EXTRAORDINARY EXHIBITION**

## *CHRIST: LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION*

The University of San Diego's Hoehn Family Galleries will host *Christ: Life, Death and Resurrection*, an exhibition of original Italian Renaissance art that includes Michelangelo's *The Three Crosses*, from September 13 – December 13. Of particular note, Michelangelo's works have never before been exhibited in San Diego. This opportunity to show *The Three Crosses* and other representations of Christ's divinity on the campus of the University of San Diego is unprecedented. Each of the 41 works on paper — including woodcuts, etchings and drawings in chalk and ink — present scenes of the Nativity, Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Our students will benefit from this remarkable display. A special course on the Italian Renaissance in conjunction with the exhibit will be taught in the fall semester. Faculty members from Art History and Theology and Religious Studies will incorporate elements of the exhibition into their coursework. Student guides will facilitate visitors' experiences throughout.

This extraordinary exhibition was curated by Hugo Chapman, Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum and one of the world's leading authorities on Michelangelo's drawings.







Right: Taddeo Zuccaro, *Design for a chapel*, c. 1553,  
Pen and brown ink, brown wash, over black chalk,  
©The Trustees of the British Museum

**T**he *Christ: Life, Death and Resurrection* exhibition promises to be one of the most critically valued exhibits in the history of our region.

"The opportunity for University Galleries to collaborate with one of the world's great institutions, the British Museum, on bringing this project to San Diego is an honor and a privilege," says Director of University Galleries Derrick Cartwright, PhD.

"This exhibition challenges us to contemplate our Catholic identity, our intellectual tradition and our mission as a university. The exhibit is an object lesson in the merger of Catholic spirituality and humankind's desire to express it."

*To learn more, go to [sandiego.edu/galleries](http://sandiego.edu/galleries).*



Above: Carlo Maratti, *Adoration of the Shepherds*, c. 1640-1713, black chalk with brown wash and heightened with white, ©The Trustees of the British Museum

"The premise of this exhibition is straightforward: examining how three key episodes in Christ's life (his birth, death and resurrection) were depicted in these prints and drawings, which range in date from the 1400s to the early 1800s. Although the selection of works from the British Museum's collection was specifically made for the University Galleries of the University of San Diego, a private Catholic university, it neither presumes nor requires that the viewer has religious faith of any kind."









# Delving deeper into the symbiosis of the U.S./Mexico border

**T**he ways that the country's southern border can be viewed are as varied as sunlight refracting through the angles of a prism. But one thing, at least, is clear: As the only Catholic university in the nation situated less than 30 miles from that border, the University of San Diego has a core commitment to supporting those who experience marginalization.

"We are called to learn about the stories and journeys of [migrants seeking asylum], so that we might come to see them as our brothers and sisters — part of our one human family" said President James Harris in December 2018.

As part of that process, *USD Magazine* reached out to people across campus this spring to get their first-hand perspective about their work on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border.

While consensus may not always be possible, this particular divide cannot be breached without, at a minimum, sharing our varied perspectives and stories.







## Guardians at the Gate

Finding balance and empathy on a deeply personal level

There is no such thing as a typical workday on the U.S./Mexico border. "It's always a different scenario," says Jazzma Rainey '16 (MS). She would know; she's been working for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for 16 years.

Recently promoted to supervisor, Rainey says the job has always required officers

shields, weapons are carried by those who are determined to get into our country at all costs," she says. "When crossing the border has a detrimental effect on the safety and quality of a person's life, they can become desperate."

CBP works closely alongside the Border Patrol; both entities are under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security. "We work on the front line," Rainey explains. "Ours are the first faces you see when you enter the U.S."

When asked about specific memories over the years, Rainey pauses. "During the Haitian

smile and a little extra compassion to those who are most vulnerable is powerful. Seeing those little girls light up when I came to their area gave me a sense of purpose. That was a defining moment for me. It highlighted the humanitarian aspect of my job."

When asked about the need for a border wall, Rainey takes a moment.

"The U.S. is definitely in need of immigration reform and a strategy to increase the efficacy of border security," she says. "But according to public data and statistics, the majority of illegal immigrants are not climbing walls." 🇺🇸

— Julene Snyder



to be on high alert. "It's never the same. There's always a new plot, a new plan," she says. It's important to note that Rainey stresses that all of her commentary about her job is personal observation, not CBP policy.

"Vigilance is one of CBP's core values. But given the heightened political controversy along the southern border, our environment has become increasingly dangerous. Although we're trained to carry out our duties with the utmost professionalism, in concurrence with civil rights laws, officer safety is paramount."

That's because the job itself has an element of real danger. "Oftentimes, rocks are thrown at officers, children are used as

migration influx in 2015, the facilities were crowded with asylum seekers. At that time, I realized the power of healing in diversity."

That experience still resonates. "The little Haitian girls would speak to me in French — although I don't speak French — and engage with me a little more than the other officers because they felt a sense of comfort and familiarity. Some had looks of shock of seeing someone with hair like theirs, skin like theirs, and facial features like theirs in a CBP facility, oceans away from everything they'd ever known."

Interacting with those kids had a big impact on Rainey. "I love children. A simple

## Esprit de Corps

Exploring our shared humanity through the power of song

Music is magical. As divisive rhetoric about the border inundates the news, music enables us to engage on a deeper level and to create solidarity — even when the divide appears too deep.

A step toward understanding was taken on a cool March evening on the University of San Diego campus. Twenty-eight singers gathered to rehearse a set of songs inspired by the border and their shared humanity. Coordinated

harmony and passionate lyrics conveyed a sense of urgency, deconstructing rhetoric and countering divisiveness by adding new voices to the discussion.

"Music is a really powerful way of communicating what it means to be human," says Emilie Amrein, DMA, assistant professor of choral studies at USD. "It's really remarkable. If you come into a space and make music with another person, you feel strangely connected to them. It's mystical, almost spiritual."

Amrein's most recent project, Common Ground Voices (CGV)/La Frontera, was inspired by the CGV reconciliation program in

These singers are taking an active role in the border debate, listening and bringing their own voices to the discussion. Being in solidarity begins with "an ear for listening," says Amrein. For the singers participating in this project — which include four USD Chorale Scholars and several student interns — it means experiencing both sides of the border and understanding the common humanity of one another. Residing in Mexico and the U.S. over the course of the week, singers had the opportunity to perform in Barrio Logan and at Friendship Park, with participants singing on both sides of the border.

## Coming and Going

### Making sense of a complicated reality is key for students

"Politically, I don't want to get into, 'Do we need a wall or don't we need a wall?'" says Alan Lerchbacker. "The real issue is this: Let's make sure that the people who really belong here are able to get here."

President and CEO of San Diego-based Naval Coating, Inc., Lerchbacker has taught at USD since 2008. While all of his employees are U.S. citizens, roughly one-third of them



Jerusalem, which aims to "generate a meaningful collaboration through music." In partnership with Boston University professor of music André de Quadros, Amrein established this immersive community music initiative to bring together singers from all over the United States and Mexico for a weeklong residency at the border.

"Like a lot of people, I've been struck by the polarizing rhetoric about the border," she says. "We need to be doing something as culture-makers, as musicians and artists about what it means to live here, separated from other people just across the border who are going about their day-to-day lives like we are."

"I think music has a special capacity to change space. To change the energy in the space and so, to me, the idea of making music is a little bit defiant," says Amrein. Music can transcend, and for Amrein, bringing many voices together makes them stronger, especially as a response to divisiveness.

"We are doing something active. We are engaging in conversation and dialogue. We are listening. We are putting our voices into the mix," she says. "We are no longer bystanders." 

— Allyson Meyer '16

 [sandiego.edu/commonground](http://sandiego.edu/commonground)

live in Mexico and commute to the States to work each day. But when the San Ysidro Port of Entry was briefly shut down in November 2018, these folks couldn't get to work. "That was very significant for our employees," he says.

He's quick to say that border enforcement officials on both sides have subsequently done a great job of making the crossing process as smooth as possible. "Our governments are working well together, and access to the U.S. is really good for them now." That experience reinforced his belief that the University of San Diego has a responsibility to make sure that its students



understand the complicated reality of the border situation.

"We're an educational institution, first and foremost. While it's really important that we listen to what that students have to say, and to listen to their ideas, they need to understand how important the relationship between our two countries is."

In the global leadership course he teaches at the USD School of Business, he's made it a point of getting his students up close and personal with businesses looking to expand internationally. "I approach CEOs of companies in Southern California and ask them, 'What is your biggest international problem?'" He then charges his students with finding solutions.

"For example, Niagara Water has nine

## Under the Same Sun

### Latinx students explore identity and faith across the border

Twenty-four miles separate Alcalá Park from San Diego's sister city, Tijuana. To many, the border represents rigid separation, but in the world's fourth largest binational region, exchanges across the border shape daily life. Every day, goods, workers and some USD students flow across ports of entry at San Ysidro and Otay Mesa.

On a sunny February weekend, 11 representatives of USD's Latinx faith community crossed that border to share in a University Ministry retreat: *El Encuentro Espiritual*,

This collaboration has built upon a relationship developed over three decades. University Minister Julia Campagna '09 (BA) has crafted and executed a number of events with her counterparts at San Eugenio in addition to the retreat, including service projects and homestays. This particular retreat was aimed at students who seek their faith in the Spanish language and to help bridge generational gaps with their parents and grandparents.

Campagna recalls her days as an undergraduate visiting San Eugenio and her appreciation of residents' open-arms welcome. "Having the opportunity to interact with communities in Tijuana was so valuable to my undergraduate experience," she says. While the neighborhood has changed since then — now filled with more residents and big-box stores — its hospitable environment remains.

The retreat featured an animated atmosphere; participants particularly enjoyed sharing in the Holy Hour of Adoration and small-group reflections. "It was such a beautiful experience to share these genuine moments with another youth from San Eugenio," says Orozco. When night fell, talk about faith and identity blended together over s'mores and mugs of *champurrado*, a thick chocolate drink. Lit by the fire's flicker, students connected in ways that promoted mutuality.

The role of language barriers in celebrating faith is understated for younger generations of Latinx Catholics in the U.S. today. Orozco admits to some insecurity about her own fluency in Spanish, even though she was raised attending Mass in Spanish. Working one-on-one with Alejandra — a fellow 20-something completing her own undergraduate studies in Tijuana — Orozco says the retreats have helped her to understand her multicultural background and its relation to her faith.

"I wouldn't trade my identity for anything, but that doesn't mean I haven't felt like an outsider within my own culture," she reflects.

Campagna says like Orozco, many Latinx students share heritage across the border, but still have difficulty reconciling their multifaceted identities of faith and hyphenated nationality. "If we're able to build meaningful relationships that allow us to see each other's humanity, share experiences and recognize differences, I would be proud of that." 🌐

— Michael Bennett '19



water bottling manufacturing plants in the U.S., and they wanted to expand to Japan. Our students found that while it would have taken the company six years to get a plant in Japan due to rules and regulations, they could have a plant up and running in Mexico in less than six months. So they made that recommendation to the company and helped them figure out the best way to do that."

Lerchbacker is quick to give the credit where it's due: "Our students are really great. They're super-motivated, very, very smart and just phenomenal all around." 🌐

— Julene Snyder

which is held exclusively in Spanish to facilitate an immersive experience. The gathering at San Eugenio Parish on the crowded east end of Tijuana's city limits is the second annual retreat to connect members of two faith communities.

"The fundamental goal of this joint retreat is to allow students from USD and youth from San Eugenio to share in understanding their faith and identities," reflects Maribel Orozco '20. As a student leader and Mexican-American, Orozco has used the interactions with San Eugenio parishioners to deepen her understanding of place within her own church community.

## A Better Life

### Health screening crucial for asylum seekers awaiting hearings

On a rainy Saturday afternoon in San Diego's Normal Heights, a church courtyard is empty but for puddles and a rotating digital sign that offers up notices of upcoming services. Once inside the doors, through a corridor, around the corner, here and there, pockets of people are gathered, some talking around tables, a few clustered in pews, another group of adults and children chatting and cooking in a kitchen area.

Down yet another corridor, a group of nursing students are clustered just inside a crowded room, talking in low voices.

"How long has she been coughing?" asks Professor Jodi Barnes. "This baby is having a hard time breathing. That's concerning." After some back-and-forth, it's decided that a trip to the E.R. is in order for the wheezing infant.

This building is part of the Safe Harbors Network, which provides shelter for refugees, immigrants and asylum seekers. Every Saturday, students from USD's Hahn School of Nursing and Health Sciences come here to address the immediate needs of the mothers and children who are temporarily housed here.

"They're all here legally," Barnes says. "Once they're released from detention centers by ICE, these people are distributed to various churches in the network. Mental health assessment is a big part of what we do. Most of these mothers have suffered severe trauma, and they tend not to get the care they need for themselves since they're afraid of being deported."

Bunk beds crowd the room. Refugees and asylum seekers from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Central and South American and Russia are currently in residence. Since many languages are spoken, a complicated back-and-forth is necessary to get questions and answers translated so that everybody understands what's happening.

USD MEPN students interact with the children, cuddle the babies and take the time that's needed to establish trust with a group that's vulnerable to trauma, toxic stress, anxiety and depression.

"We talk with the kids and their moms about where they're from, how their health is, find out how they're feeling," says O'Brien. "We've fast-tracked this as a clinical site and have developed a validated mental health screening tool for these people." Those efforts



helped them to earn second-place honors in USD's Fall 2018 Changemaker Challenge.

USD students find the experience of interacting with the refugees and hearing their stories to be personally impactful. Second-year MEPN student Lihini Keenawinna said this in a recent blog post about the project: "I keep coming back to this idea that they went through such immense traumas, but are incredibly resilient in their desire to have a better life. It's the most fulfilling feeling to be able to help, even in the tiniest of ways."

— *Julene Snyder*

 [sandiego.edu/MEPN-asylum](http://sandiego.edu/MEPN-asylum)

## Reframing the Issue

### Coming together to support one another and make positive change

"Growing up in a border town gave me direct experience in understanding the very many different issues that exist along the border," says Maria Silva '12 (BA). Born in the U.S. and raised in Nogales, Mexico, Silva and her siblings commuted daily into Nogales, Arizona to attend school.

"It was just life," she says with a shrug. "It was normal. It was strange to me to find out later that people didn't country hop the way

we did." Life seemed simpler then, even after 9/11 brought longer wait times, stricter U.S. entry requirements and much tighter security.

"Today, the way the border is militarized looks completely different," Silva says. "The fencing, the number of border patrol agents, the drones and the helicopters. For kids who are crossing on a daily basis, I think it's changed significantly."

It's a difference she experiences firsthand, crossing from San Diego into Tijuana weekly as part of her job at USD. Since arriving as a first-year in 2009, Silva has devoted much of her time to working with migrants and asylum seekers. Today, she's a director for the Mulvaney Center for Community Awareness and Social Action, overseeing an impressive operation that links the university with non-profit groups on both sides of the border.

"We are a binational anchor," Silva says. "It's an opportunity and a responsibility for us, being so close to the border, to reach out to partners in Tijuana the same way as we do here."

Dealing with the ongoing political crisis and its human collateral can be draining, as it was when Silva picked up a young Guatemalan girl and her dad from San Diego's emergency immigrant shelter. The two were released after a difficult, month-long journey north and two nights in detention. Silva drove them to the airport to be reunited



with family on the East Coast.

"The girl was just ecstatic. She kept looking out the window and pointing out everything she saw," Silva remembers. "We got to the airport and I asked for an escort pass to take them to the gate. I've done this many times before, but this time, the airline agents wouldn't give me one." Silva explained to the duo that they'd have to get through security and find their gate themselves.

"The girl kept looking back at me. You could tell that when they see someone in uniform, that's immediately triggering.

## Building Hope

### Baja Service Project makes lifetime connections for scholar-athletes

In the quiet, pre-dawn hours of a fall morning in 2016, Chris McCready and 34 of his USD baseball teammates assembled at Fowler Park for a trip into the unknown.

Sure, they had taken many bus rides together, squaring off against rival baseball squads across Southern California and beyond.

But this was something special — and

The next 72 hours (engine malfunctions notwithstanding) would provide McCready and his teammates a life-changing look into the lives of underserved communities just outside their San Diego doorstep. Head USD Baseball Coach Rich Hill had connected with nonprofit organization Hope Sports — which conducts service projects in poverty-stricken communities around the world — about taking his team to the outskirts of Tijuana for a four-day service immersion trip. There, they would break the 35-man roster into two teams that would build two homes for local families.

Now, some three years and three service



She started shaking as she got closer to the TSA agent. That's just one manifestation of the political climate we live in."

But there are encouraging signs, and they give Silva a measure of hope. "I've had great experiences as well with TSA agents and airline folks. And every day working with organizations that are tirelessly serving these communities, I'm reminded that we're coming together to support each other," she says.

"I think this political time will be seen as a critical shift. We have to reframe the way we think. The problem is not immigration. The problem is us and the system we've created. We have the power to change it."

— Karen Gross

maybe a little intimidating. This was a trip across the U.S. border into Northern Baja California to build homes for families in need.

Like many of his Torero teammates, McCready was nervous — but in a good way. As a first-year player, he hadn't experienced anything like this, and could never have guessed the indelible impact the trip would have on him ... even if it got off to a less-than-auspicious start.

"I remember getting on the bus early in the morning, and no one really knew what we were going to do," McCready, now a senior, recalls. "Everyone was kind of quiet, waiting for something to happen. Then the bus wouldn't start, and everyone started laughing. It broke the ice a bit."

trips later, the annual project has become a source of pride for all members of the Torero baseball family. "An experience like this is so important to our athletes," Hill says. "It shapes them, it provides perspective, and shows them how lucky they are to have the opportunities they have."

Everyone who participates understands that the house builds are much more than the melding of plywood, glass and concrete. It's an opportunity to make a deep and meaningful connection with those less fortunate, and to share that amazing experience with coaches and teammates.

"It's really difficult to get access to a project like this where you're making such a direct impact on someone's life," says Hunter

Mercado-Hood '17, a former Torero outfielder who still makes time to participate in the Baja service project, despite having to commute from Northern California. "There's a line out the door of alumni who want to still be part of this. The gift and gratitude swing both ways; the families are so grateful to us for building them a home, but we all are so grateful to them for helping us appreciate everything that we have."

"Anyone who participates in this service project gets so much out of it," adds McCreary. "I hope we do this as long as the work is needed." 🌐

— Mike Sauer

relationship that dwarfs, by any measure, the illicit relationship. It's just so much bigger."

He notes that two million Americans live in Mexico. "The size of commerce, the cultural exchange, the number of trips people make back and forth while doing business, being tourists and staying with their families, is so much bigger than the illicit piece," he explains. "But it's the illicit piece that gets the attention."

Meade's educational expertise is Mexico's history, U.S. relations with Latin America, human rights and researching individuals and families who've fled violence in Mexico and Central America. He pursues creative avenues

local volunteers are working together on the project. "Sinaloa was at the core of the drug war. It's a shared problem and the root of this violence we've had since 2007 or so," Meade explains. "But it also very clearly relates to the border. Illicit commerce is what fuels it. It's about the border, but it isn't on the border. It's 800 miles from us."

Powerful stories have been shared: "We've heard from spouses and mothers of the forcibly disappeared, survivors of kidnappings and sexual assaults, widows of fallen police officers and many other witnesses to and victims of acts of violence."



## Overcoming Obstacles

### Trans-Border Institute delves into the region's complexities

Ev Meade looks at the U.S.-Mexico border as more opportunity than obstacle. His perspective and that of his students — through internships and courses featuring pioneering field research — is the result of firsthand knowledge of the area and its people.

"The land border is kind of a red herring," says Meade, the director of USD's Trans-Border Institute (TBI) and Kroc School professor of practice. "There's this huge binational

to build peace and trust. Toward that end, he and Kroc School students conduct nonpartisan research and analysis of the border's most pressing issues in an effort to encourage solutions to localized conflicts.

Their newest project is in Culiacan, Sinaloa. There, Meade and local emerging leaders are pioneering an oral history project in partnership with a non-governmental organization called *Construyendo Espacio para la Paz* (Building Spaces for Peace). Using long-form interviews, the project asks locals to document, then analyze their everyday experiences of violence over the course of the last decade in the area, which is the epicenter of the drug war in Mexico.

Six Kroc School graduate students and 80


Meade says there are plans to make policy recommendations and produce a book, as well as to consider repeating this exercise in Tijuana. "It's not being done by the government, or a prosecutor or the U.N. It's a group of citizens interviewing fellow citizens," he says.

Meade offers everyone a chance to join the conversation and learn about the region through his TBI Opportunities Certificate summer program. In it, working professionals, students and aspiring civic leaders can gain essential tools to better engage with border issues.

"We can do things in a course where our students can go to the heart of a conflict and not just be there, but be involved in a major peacebuilding effort." 🌐

— Ryan T. Blystone





# Mending the First Amendment

*by Timothy McKernan*





**P**resident Trump strode to the lectern in the East Room for a news conference with the White House press corps; Jim Acosta, CNN's chief White House correspondent, was in his customary front-row seat. Some 2,600 miles to the west, Ted Boutros '87 (JD) was watching the television in his office 54 stories above the streets of Los Angeles.

The stage was set for one of the most remarkable legal challenges in the nation's history: the president of the United States as defendant in a lawsuit alleging infringement of the First Amendment rights of freedom of the press.



**B**outrous had been “keeping an eye” on the White House relationship with the media. He was especially troubled by the president’s habit of referring to certain journalists as an “enemy of the people,” especially after the White House excluded CNN reporter Kaitlan Collins from a White House event the previous summer because they deemed as “inappropriate” questions she had asked the president earlier in the day.

That event precipitated online conversations with Boutrous and other attorneys versed in the First Amendment that guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The exchanges focused on *Sherrill v. Knight*, a case dating from the Nixon administration, when the court had ruled the First Amendment limited the right of the White House to deny

not be denied arbitrarily or for less than compelling reasons.”

Boutrous was watching the Nov. 7 news conference when Trump called on Acosta. The president and the reporter had had a contentious relationship dating to the Trump campaign. CNN was one of the primary targets of the president’s frequent “fake news!” accusations of reporting he found critical or did not square with his version of events.

“Thank you, Mr. President,” Acosta began. “I’d like to challenge you on a statement you made at the tail-end of the campaign, the midterms ...”

“Ah, here we go,” the president responded.

Acosta asked the president about the migrants — the “caravan” — who were then on their journey from Central America to the United States border with the

not answered his question. A White House intern attempted to take the microphone from Acosta, who held on to it and continued to try asking his question. The president called on a different reporter, then returned his attention to Acosta.

“Honestly, I think you should let me run the country and you run CNN, and if you did it well your ratings would be much better,” the president said. “CNN should be ashamed of itself having you working for them. You are a rude, terrible person. You shouldn’t be working for CNN. You are a rude person. You are the enemy of the people.”

*Enemy of the people.* Boutrous’ ears pricked up on hearing — again — language used by despots and dictators to refer to those who challenge them, not the elected president of the United States.

After the news conference, Acosta left the White House to go to dinner. Returning later for a live appearance on *Anderson Cooper 360*, Acosta was stopped at the Pennsylvania Avenue gate that reporters often use.

“I’ve just been denied entrance to the WH,” Acosta tweeted, and posted a video of a Secret Service officer removing his “hard pass,” routinely provided to reporters who regularly cover the White House to expedite entry and exit from the grounds.

Reaction was swift and almost universal in its support of Acosta. Even conservative-leaning media outlets generally supportive of the president were critical of the move. Former ABC correspondent Sam Donaldson, noted for his tough questioning of previous administrations, said in a statement, “I was aggressive in posing questions and pursuing answers because the job of obtaining factual information from and about the public servants is a job that contributed to holding the government accountable to the citizens of this country.”

**P**residents and the media that report on them have an adversarial relationship that dates back to the creation of the republic. USD Political Science Professor Del Dickson says the British concept of “seditious libel” let the government go after critical journalists. A variation of this was used by John Adams in developing the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts that restricted, among other things, freedoms of speech and press that had been enshrined in the Constitution less than 10 years before.

Dickson says that wartime presidents used censorship and at least the threat of prosecutions more than others.

“Lincoln had editors of critical newspapers jailed and wanted them tried by military tribunals, not the civilian courts,” he says, emphasizing that the notion of a neutral press is relatively new. In Lincoln’s day, screaming headlines — broadsides — were typically partisan screeds.

“Lincoln exercised broad powers during the war that would never fly under normal circumstances, including suspending the right of habeas corpus. He may have overreached, but it’s easy to see why he would as president of a nation at war with itself. The current situation isn’t even remotely the same thing.”

Boutrous says there had been conversation since early in the Trump presidency about challenging discrimination based on content that the president didn’t like.

“Many of Mr. Trump’s broadsides had been directed at CNN, including Jim Acosta,” Boutrous says. “When the White House took away his access, it seemed to me a line had been crossed. I sent an email to David Vigilante (CNN Legal’s executive vice president) and asked, ‘Can we sue now?’”

From there, Boutrous says, things happened at breakneck speed. “Jim’s pass was revoked on a Wednesday. We got the green light on Thursday. The hearing



President Donald Trump argues with CNN chief White House correspondent Jim Acosta in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC on November 7, 2018.

access to journalists. Robert Sherrill, a journalist with a reputation for writing sensationalist stories, was denied access to the White House. The court ruled protection “afforded newsgathering under the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press requires that this access

purpose of requesting political asylum. The president had repeatedly referred to the caravan as “an invasion,” and Acosta pressed him on the characterization.

The interchange quickly became tense. The president sought to move on. Acosta persisted, feeling the president had



CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta speaks to the media after arriving at the White House after Judge Timothy Kelly ordered the White House to reinstate Acosta's press credentials.

was the following week."

Boutrous quickly assembled teams from various offices of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where he serves as partner and co-chair of the firm's Litigation Group.

"We had a briefs writing team; we had a factual team doing complaints and declarations, and we put together a whole case in three or four days," he says. "We were ready to go the distance if we had to."

The CNN suit asked that Acosta's hard pass be immediately restored and refrain from further discrimination based on his reporting. The hearing was scheduled for Nov. 14 — exactly one week after the news conference.

On the evening of Nov. 13, Boutrous practiced the same routine as he did arguing landmark cases before the Supreme Court, including *Wal-Mart Stores Inc. v. Dukes*, that set important precedent governing class action suits, and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, that invalidated California's Proposition 8 prohibiting same-sex marriage. The USD School of Law grad likens his preparation process to being in law school again.

"I'm big on Q&As and one-pagers that put the key arguments

in bite-sized pieces, and do an outline of key points," he says, adding that he sometimes rehearses before a mirror.

"It's a lot like being in law school, really. You've got the cases in a compressed time period and you don't know what the questions are going to be. You have to know the material inside and out and be able to then organize it on your feet, based on whatever questions you get."

Boutrous and three Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher attorneys appeared for the plaintiffs before D.C. District Court Judge Timothy Kelly, opposite four Justice Department lawyers. Speaking for the plaintiffs, Boutrous cited the *Sherrill* case, which required the White House to demonstrate a clear and consistent process and a mechanism to appeal for revoking any reporter's credentials.

"I said [the White House rationale for taking the pass] was a warped view of journalism and the First Amendment, because they really didn't seem to respect the fact that the public owns the White House. The president works for the people and the press is there to keep an eye on the president and the White

House on our behalf."

Judge Kelly's decision came quickly. But for Boutrous and his team, it seemed like forever.

"We got word the ruling would be handed down at 3 p.m. the next day," Boutrous recalls. "Then it was moved to 10 a.m. on Friday. We were confident that we would prevail, but you just never know. We were sitting with Jim Acosta on pins and needles, waiting. Finally, we got it: He ordered the hard pass restored. Acosta immediately went to the White House and within the hour had his pass back. Rarely in litigation do you have such instant gratification, get a prize for the win."

Boutrous headed back to Los Angeles "in a very good mood." But by the time his plane landed, Acosta and his attorneys had received communication from the White House acknowledging the judge's ruling and giving notice that Acosta's hard pass would indeed be revoked, detailing the reasons why.

"We were given until Sunday to respond, which we just thought was outrageous," Boutrous recalls. "But we launched back into developing a response. We geared up

to be back in court on Monday."

The White House subsequently issued another missive, stating the pass would be permanently restored but new behavior standards for news conferences would be forthcoming. Critics, including *Washington Post* associate editor Bob Woodward — whose reporting was fundamental to revealing the Watergate scandal to the world — opined the suit was a bad idea, saying it played into the president's strategy of demonizing journalism.

In his Los Angeles office, Dodger Stadium visible in the distance over his right shoulder, the Hollywood sign at a glance to the north, Boutrous saw the suit as not just a victory for Acosta and CNN but for the Constitution and the American political system.

"The president of the United States tried to control who can cover him and how," he says. "The presidency is not Donald Trump or Barack Obama or George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. It is an office that belongs to the people of the United States. We set an important precedent and now the White House knows it can't try to suppress the freedom of the press." 📰



CNN attorney Ted Boutrous '87 (JD) at right, with CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta, speaking outside U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., on November 16, 2018.







MARSHALL WILLIAMS

ships over the course of nearly a decade.


Last October, Pajanor brought his dedication and experience to the same position at Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego (CCDSD). Within days, he faced his first emergency, when federal authorities began dropping desperate asylum seekers at the bus station in downtown San Diego.

"I was brand new in my role, still learning how things worked," he recalls. He learned fast. "Catholic Charities has always been involved in providing immigration and refugee services, so it was natural for us to get involved when the crisis hit at the border."

That early test — combined with the region's increasingly grave homeless situation — gave Pajanor a crash course not only in CCDSD's role in the community and its regional relationships, but also in the delicate politics of his new position.

"There's always blowback when you deal with migrants coming in. People argue, 'There's already a need here, why help these other folks?'"

His answer is clear: "The homeless and those who come in as strangers, they're all critical for us, because this is a border town. If a migrant comes in and we don't address their needs, they're going to become homeless. They're going to end up on the street."

As CCDSD prepares to celebrate its centennial this year, Pajanor brings a fresh set of eyes to the deeply rooted institution. While the agency will evolve on Pajanor's watch, its vision will not waver. "For those who have no voice, Catholic Charities has always been at the forefront," he says. "That has to remain at the core of our mission." 

to his new life in the U.S. and has guided him over the years. As a student volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul's shelter, he helped reinstate a pro bono legal clinic that had closed.

"He came to me saying, 'We can do this. This is where people need help,'" recalls Allen Snyder, one of his law professors. "Whatever he was doing, he did with a bounce in his step and joy in his heart."

Pajanor's positivity found a new opportunity several years later, when a client at his law firm, Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, asked him to look into predatory lending practices in the local real estate market. That led to creation of the Housing Opportunities Collaborative, a nonprofit helping homeowners hit by the mortgage crisis. As its first executive director, Pajanor developed key public and private partner-

## 1950s

[1959] 

**LOUIS CAPPELLO (BBA)** retired from his job as a mortgage banker in 2010.

## 1960s

[1963]

**ELOISA THOMPSON (BA)** is enjoying blessings of good health, family and living by the ocean in Baja. She has three grandchildren. "Thank you to our Sacred Heart for a wonderful education," she says.

[1968]

**JAMES JOSEPH (BA)** was inducted as a Golden Torero, an alumnus who graduated 50 or more years ago.

**DANNY WILSON (BA)** retired in 2014 after a 47-year career teaching at University of San Diego High School and Cathedral Catholic High School.

## 1970s

[1970]

**RUBEN ESCOBOSA (BS)** has been a commercial real estate broker for 43 years. His daughter, Rachel, graduated from USD in 1999 and is a human resources director at TargetCW; his daughter, Emilie, graduated from Otis College in 2009 and is an international fashion designer. He has two grandchildren: Jack, 10, and Avery, 7.

[1972]

**PAKA ANDERSEN (MEd)** is very happy to give back to her community and its ministries. She is also giving health care and retirement advice to her son and her son's employees.

[1976]

**BERNARD CIERNICK (BA), '82 (MA)** is proud that his oldest son entered the Army.

[1978]

**ANNE (CAREY) HENSEL (BA), '80 (MEd)** retired in October 2017 from her position as a special education director. "I currently am enjoying retired life as well as working part time supervising special education student teachers and interns through National University," she says. "Life is good!"

[1979] 

**ADAM SARANCIK (JD)** published his second book: *Takeaway Quotes for Coaching Champions for Life*. It helps coaches be proactive in designing practice plans that offer lessons for life beyond the game.

## 1980s

[1980]

**JOHN SPITTERS (BA)** splits time between the Bay Area and Haverford, Pennsylvania. His stepson, Christopher, is a Menlo College alumnus and head football coach at ASA College in Brooklyn, New York.

[1981]

**MICHAEL BERG (JD)** was appointed a federal magistrate judge for the federal court in the Southern District of California.

**PAMELA HERKNER-CHASSE**

**(BA), '82 (MA)** reports that her daughter, Samantha, married Hunter Gemmill on June 22, 2018. Samantha and Hunter both work for Paramount Pictures. Pamela adds that her mother passed away in August 2016 and her sister's husband passed away in March 2017.

**THOMAS LOFFARELLI (MBA)**

reports that he was married in July 2017 and relocated to San Diego. He practiced law for 12 years and worked as a real estate broker, property manager and investor. He also has volunteered for the Wine Classic, the Bridges Academy lecture series and other USD events.

**LISA MATT (MA)** is retired after teaching for the San Diego Community College District for 28 years. She now works in the public library system.

**MARYANN THOMSON (BA), '82 (MEd)** retired after teaching in the San Diego Unified School District for almost 40 years. "Loving it!" she says.

**STEVE VASQUEZ (BBA)** moved his investment adviser office to San Clemente, California, after more than 30 years in Los Angeles County.

[1982]

**GAIL CONNERS (BA)** says she is "quite elderly now," but is getting along the best she can, thanks to the loving support of her children.



**RICHARD HUVER (BBA)** has officially closed his law practice after 30 years as a trial lawyer. He is transitioning into full-time mediation and enjoys mediating a variety of cases throughout Southern California.

**ELLEN PHELAN (BBA)** signed on with VOX Space, a subsidiary of Virgin Orbit, as the director of contracts.

#### [1983]

**DESIREE (WHARTON) COLLINGS (BBA)** celebrated 38 years of USD friendship at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club with fellow alumnae Roberta (Joslin) Barry '83 (BA), Claudia (Denigan) Cox '82 (BA), Lori (Neilsen) Lavik '83 (BA) and Virginia (Stehly) Yourg '83 (BA). Some are grandmothers now, she says, and many of their children have attended their alma mater. "We love USD. Go Toreros!" Desiree says.

**SUSAN DeLINE (BA), '86 (Med)** reports, "Life has been busy for the DeLines! Two of our daughters recently got married; one moved to the Big Apple and the last is a sophomore in college in Colorado. I am a reading teacher and loving it. Matt (DeLine '83) is a Realtor and surfing as often as he can. Life is good!"

**MEGAN DORSEY (BA), '87 (JD)** has worked in Las Vegas since 2002. "Competitive poetry is my life," she says.

**JAMES HITCHCOCK (BBA)** was awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary AIF designation on April 1, 2018.

**MATTY SANDOVAL (BA, JD '87)** and fellow alumnus Tony Samaniego assisted USD rugby head coach Kevin Eaton at the West Coast Sevens collegiate tournament in the fall of 2018 on Treasure Island in San Francisco.

#### [1985]

**DENNIS CHAMBERLAND (BA)** is the author of *Finding Your Divine Purpose*. He has recently launched his latest workshop series, "Living the Power of Yes!" He writes, "Anything is possible when you believe in yourself! God and your Angels want you to be happy and to live a life of joy, love, peace and abundance. God is saying YES. What are you waiting for?" His website can be found at [www.dennischamberland.me](http://www.dennischamberland.me).

**LYN ROSSI SEMETA (JD)** worked in the LEAD San Diego chapter after graduating from USD, which inspired her to enter public service. Now she serves on the Huntington Beach City Council in California. She initiated efforts for a new Huntington Beach public art master plan and for a commission to oversee the Huntington Harbour waterways. She is a director on the Orange County Water Board and is the vice chair of the Public Cable Television Authority.

**MARK SPERRAZZO (BA)** has worked in the Diocese of San Diego for 33 years. His teaching career took him from School of the Madeleine to the University of San Diego High School, where he transitioned into administration. He is now the principal of St. Therese Academy in San Diego.

**PAMELA STAMBAUGH (MBA)** leads lunch-and-learn events for senior and emerging leaders in a program called Gain Strategic Ability Through Paradoxical Leadership.

**KENNETH WINANS (BBA)** is president and founder of Winans Investments, as well as a philanthropist and critically acclaimed author. He has set a world record for the most awards won in major book competitions for a finance/business author in the English language, according to the World Record Academy. The U.S. Senate honored Kenneth for this achievement with a certificate of commendation. His four published works have won 33 awards in international competitions.

#### [1987]

**ARTHUR FARO (BBA)** reports that he was married on Jan. 1, 2019.

#### [1988]

**ROBERT REINCKE (MBA)** writes, "I am an artist and writer. I write business plans for investor immigrants ([immigrationbusinessplans.com](http://immigrationbusinessplans.com)), wrote and published two books ([spunkybooks.com](http://spunkybooks.com)), and continually produce fine art: painting and sculpture."

#### [1989] 📖

**JOHN DASHER (BA)** joined security startup RiskSense as the vice president of product marketing.

**STEPHANIE (DAVIS) HOGUE** is celebrating five years for Latitudes Fine Art Gallery at its Main Street Ventura, California, location with a select book of images of the picturesque

town by Stephanie and Steve Munch, both acclaimed photographers and Latitudes co-owners. Stephanie has lived in Ventura since the 1990s and had a successful career as a political photojournalist and then wedding and portrait photographer. After she connected with Steve, they opened a fine arts gallery in Ventura and then on Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands.

#### JAMIE RIOS (BBA), '95 (Med)

lives with her two sons, who keep her busy with their sports, school events and travels. She is the regional director for Partners in Special Education and was a special education teacher in the San Diego Unified School District for 19 years. Jamie hikes with her dogs, visits the beach and is a distance runner.

**STEVE SCHUSTER (BBA)** writes, "I am looking forward to coming out to USD for my 30-year reunion in October, and hope to see other former classmates there as well."

**JOEL SELIK (LLM)** spoke at the Nevada Children's Law Conference in September 2018 in Reno, Nevada.

## 1990s

#### [1990]

**CAROL ANN HEASLEY (MA)** continues to write poetry, fiction and nonfiction pieces for publication. She also volunteers to help candidates get elected to office who value public policy that represents the neediest of San Diegans.

**MARY ANN SIMANELLO (BSN), '06 (MSN), '07 (PhD)** retired from full-time work in February 2018 after 40 years in the nursing profession. She now reviews complaint cases part time as an expert practice consultant for the California Board of Registered Nursing.

**SARA (SCHWAB) SMITH (BBA)** writes, "Our daughter, Emily, is a freshman at USD! Fun to be back as a parent. Campus looks amazing."

**HOANG TAING (BA)** is a White House Fellow regional finalist, Fulbright fellow, award-winning poet, author, international motivational speaker, counselor, entrepreneur and personal coach. Her new memoir, *Buffalo Girl*:

*My Journey to Freedom* is described as a "powerful tale of survival, loss, and redemption." The book is available on Amazon.

#### [1991]

**MARY JOAN BARCELON (Bacc)** writes, "Life is nourished through friends and family and other people we encounter in life; and most importantly, through charitable acts."

**SUSIE BARRETT (MA)** writes, "Recently graduated our fourth and final child from high school via homeschooling with Heritage Christian School, completing 21 years of home education."

**ROBERT JACKSON (BA)** published his eighth novel, *Hester and the Battle of Bannockburn*, a Scottish medieval tale of a female wizard trained by Merlin. The novel is available free on Amazon.com.

#### [1992]

**NEIL GREER (BBA)** was awarded a seventh patent and is celebrating his 19th year in business in 2019. He reports that he and his wife, Lisa (Toole) '93, plan to celebrate their 25th anniversary on Oct. 22, 2019.

**ERIKA SANCHEZ (BA)** has written and published two books, *Ernestine* and *Elodie*. Both are available on Amazon.com.

#### [1993]

**BRENT HODGES (Bacc)** received his doctorate from Creighton University in July 2018 and continues to serve as superintendent at Scottsdale Christian Academy in Phoenix. His son, TJ, graduated from USD in 2017.

**ERJA JÄRVELÄ (IMBA)** writes, "Just complemented my well-being studies with a degree in nature and environment issues. I am passionate about the well-being effects of nature."

**SUSAN MOSBY (BA)** writes, "Still teaching Spanish at Cherry Creek High School. My husband, Peter, and I are enjoying our hobby farm and watching our three kids grow spiritually, athletically and academically. We purchased a Montessori school in Conifer, Colorado, and we are kicking it off for the 2019 school year. I wear my USD alum shirts with pride on college Wednesdays at my school."

**KATHIE O'NEIL (BA), '95 (MEd)** writes, "Getting ready to retire! Yippee! A few more short years!"

**[1994]** 🎓

**JENNIFER McCOY (BSN), '98 (MSN)** is the child protection coordinator at St. Mary's International School in Japan.

**GOETZ NEUMANN (LLM)** has held the position of general counsel of Wacker Chemie AG since 2007. In 2016, he was promoted to president and CEO of the Wacker Pensionfund, an institutional investor with about \$3 billion in invested money.

**ALFREDO SILVA (BA)** moved to Hodgenville, Kentucky, in 2011, where he is the chair of the foreign language department at Larue County High School. He teaches Spanish and assists the football team as the co-offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. His oldest son, Christian, is majoring in nursing at Northern Kentucky University; his daughter, Ariana, is a junior in high school; and his youngest son, Aaron, is in the eighth grade. Alfredo's wife, Claudia, is a marketing assistant at Amerifirst Home Mortgage Company in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

**SHAWNA SUCH (BBA)** is a certified financial planner and has been working as a wealth management adviser for 21 years.

**[1995]**

**DAVID ARNOLD (JD)** is the chief legal officer for Omnitracs, a transportation technology company.

**LISA HOEHLE (MBA)** was hired by two school districts and she also still serves as a local business consultant in Los Angeles/Ventura counties.

**STEPHANIE LANE (BA)** writes, "Balancing marriage and motherhood of two with my professional life of providing psychotherapy to individuals in need of caring for their mental health needs." Stephanie earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California.

**APRIL STEINGREBE (BA)** reports, "Scott and I are living a full (and busy!) life in San Diego with three pretty amazing kids; currently touring colleges with our oldest!" Her

# STUDENTS REUNITE USD MASS PARENTS

# USD

# ALUMNI TAILGATE

LEGACY PINNING CEREMONY  
GOLDEN TOREROS DINNER WITH THE PRESIDENT  
FOOTBALL COMMEMORATE  
FAMILY AFFINITY  
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH  
ALCALA PARK TOURS  
REUNIONS  
HOMECOMING CONCERT  
REMINISCENCE  
TOREROS ON THE TOWN  
CELEBRATE  
TORERO TALKS  
TORERO CASINO NIGHT  
ALUMNI HONORS  
CLASS OF '69  
50TH CLASS REUNION  
GOLDEN TOREROS REUNION  
TOREROS REJOICE

## HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

## OCTOBER 3-6, 2019

Save the date for a fantastic weekend with the entire USD community,  
reliving good times, reconnecting with great friends,  
and creating new memories!

Weekend festivities include Alumni Honors, Big Blue Bash and Concert,  
Torero Casino Night, Torero Tailgate, Torero Football vs. Marist,  
and Alumni and Family Sunday Mass.

		
ALUMNI HONORS	BIG BLUE BASH	TORERO CASINO NIGHT
		
TORERO TAILGATE	TORERO FOOTBALL	SUNDAY MASS


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[game changers]

# SAVING LIVES (TIMES TWO)

**Shelter to Soldier pairs rescue dogs with veterans in need**

by *Timothy McKernan*

**T**here's Riddler the Labrador and Marlow the Lab mix, Benny the cattle dog and Penny ... well, your guess is as good as any. Each of those dogs, yearning for a life of purpose in a forever home, has been caged with a clock ticking. Despite impassioned efforts to bring the number to zero, some 1.2 million dogs are euthanized every year in the United States.

And there are people like Vic Martin, a Navy veteran with depression so deep he hadn't left his house in six months. People like the Marine Corporal

who suffered a brain injury after a roadside bomb went off feet away from his Humvee. Like too many others, they came home with poisoned souvenirs of war: post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury. And the nightmares. Oh, were there nightmares.

Shelter to Soldier, a nonprofit organization co-founded by Kyrie (Baca) Bloem '10 (BA) and her husband, Graham, trains dogs from local rescues as service companions and matches them with military veterans in need.

Each day, an average of 20 vet-

erans and active duty members of the United States military take their own life. And every year, 1.2 million dogs are put down because of medical or behavioral problems — or simply because there is no place for them to live. The need is mutual. "It's what we mean by 'saving lives two at a time,'" Bloem says.

Martin "lived on his couch and was afraid to go to the mailbox," Bloem recalls. "When he arrived, he was shaking and stuttering so badly we could barely understand him."

He was matched with Kira, a pit-bull mix, and when she

retired, Mia, a chocolate lab, became Vic's companion.

"I wish there was something more I could say than 'thank you' to Shelter to Soldier," Martin says, who created the organization's logo and now serves as its director of veteran services. "I am so very grateful for the gift they have given me. It is my life."

Bloem, who earned USD degrees in Spanish and biology as well as a master's in nutritional science from SDSU, met Graham while working at a pet resort. It didn't take long before their shared love of animals was coupled with a mutual desire to give back.

That meeting of the minds resulted in the founding of Shelter to Soldier in 2012. Graham is president and training director; Kyrie serves as the organization's

**Vets like Vic Martin, USN, Retired — shown here with his service dog, Mia — see the benefits of nonprofit Shelter to Soldier as a lifesaver.**

vice president and director of operations. Bloem says she and co-founder Krys Holc '87 (BBA) manage the organization's myriad administrative demands.

"There's a lot," Bloem says with a laugh. "Community outreach, donor outreach, grant writing, event planning and volunteer recruitment ... we definitely wear lots of hats, but we have an amazing team. It is so worth it to see the difference we're making."

Soldier to Shelter became especially relevant after the Veterans Administration cut funding for psychiatric service dogs. Bloem says service dogs can cost up to \$35,000. "And this is a population that just can't afford that."

Bloem admits the process for turning a shelter dog into a service dog and finding a good soldier match can be lengthy as well as pricey.

"Once we identify a dog as a good candidate to be a service animal, there's a nine- to 12-month training period for the dog, and then another six months of training with the dog and the veteran they're matched with."

To date, Shelter to Soldier has matched 23 vets with dogs; 17 more are in training. Bloem says among the organization's goals is a facility to serve as temporary quarters for veterans from across the nation to live in while they learn dog handling.

"We want to increase the number of dogs we place, because the positive change in the lives of both the veterans is real. We've seen it. And we've seen it again and again." 🐕

company, NewWest Property Management, is a boutique management firm in San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter. April specializes in leasing and managing condominiums and townhomes located in the 92101 zip code; her firm currently counts nearly 200 properties managed full time. She adds that her husband is a licensed Realtor working in an executive position with the Neuman Team of Berkshire Hathaway and "has been an integral part of this award-winning sales team for 21 years."

**ALEIDA WAHN (JD)** is an attorney and a true crime writer. She was featured on the national true crime show, *Snapped*, for her coverage of the Diana Lovejoy trial.

**[1996]**  
**TERENCE BANICH (BA)** has been practicing law in Chicago since 1999 and is a partner at Fox Rothschild, a national law firm where he focuses on commercial bankruptcy and litigation. Terence and his wife, Katherine, have two daughters: Sadie, 6, and Eloise, 3.

**[1997]**  
**LAURA (CLARK) FEE (BA)** reports that she was married on June 11, 2016, and is a first-grade teacher.

**CHERIE VERBER (MA)** writes, "I retired in the central highlands of Mexico, where I am spending my time teaching sewing to women and empowering them with their new abilities to form a cooperative and earn money."

**[1998]**  
**HEATHER HIRSCHKOFF (BA)** has taught from first grade to eighth grade and earned a master's degree. "I am blessed to be teaching my faith once again in a Catholic school," she says

**RACHEL (KOWARDY) IRELAND (BA)** moved to Point Loma in San Diego and is "happy to see lots of USD alumni driving around — go Toreros!"

**KRISTI MILLER NICHOLS (BA)** is the Alamo archaeologist and the collections manager for the Alamo Trust Inc. This is the first time the Alamo has had a staff archaeologist, Kristi says. "The winter and spring of 2019 aims to be an exciting time at the historic site as several major

archaeological investigations are set to take place," she adds.

**ROBERT PALM (IMBA)** moved to Athens, Greece, to work at the U.S. Embassy. He retired from active duty in 2018 and is staying in Athens to search for new opportunities.

**BRIAN SANCHEZ (BA)** reports that his baby boy was born on Dec. 26, 2018.

## 2000s

**[2000]**  
**JAMES BRITT (BA)** has been a police officer with the Seattle Police Department since 2002. He is a lieutenant in the patrol operations division. He has been married for 13 years and has a 9-year-old son.

**TINA (LUKOMSKI) CASOLA (MA)** is president of First Alarm Wellness, a specialty behavioral health practice providing services to the first responder community. Recognizing a deficiency in services for first responders, Tina created educational content and introduced evidence-based interventions that she knew worked with the military community. Tina's programs have become a resource in departments throughout California and the United States. She also speaks nationally on the topic of behavioral health in emergency services.

**JESSICA CHALOUKKA (BA)** is a first officer at SkyWest Airlines and was promoted to CDR/O-5 in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

**RACHEL (DANJCZEK) CLOUSER (BA)** earned a doctorate at the University of California, Los Angeles, and is dean of academic and student life at La Jolla Country Day School. "I am so glad to be back in San Diego, joined by my husband and two puggies," she says.

**ANNIE PETERSEN (BA)** reports that after a healthy career as a producer in broadcast journalism, she took her headset off for the last time in 2016. After working briefly in public relations, she enrolled in the Coaches Training Program through Accomplishment Coaching. Annie is now a life coach and is taking referrals and new clients (www.igniteyourlife.coach).

**[2002]**  
**BEATRICE (PAS) ANDRE (BBA)** reports that she welcomed a daughter two years ago.

**JENNIFER BAUMANN (JD)** was promoted to senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Alliant Insurance Services. Her core responsibilities include mergers and acquisitions, regulatory compliance, intellectual property, litigation and equity. Jennifer had served as assistant general counsel for a decade. Prior to her tenure at Alliant, Jennifer was an employment attorney with two San Diego law firms. She recently received the First Chair Award, which recognizes the nation's most innovative and accomplished in-house counsel for their significant contributions to the legal community.

**HEATHER DOOLEY (BA)** ended her term and presidency on the USD Alumni Board in June 2017 and reports that she and her husband, Kevin '93, welcomed their first child in September 2017. Heather is in her 14th year as a resource specialist with the San Diego Unified School District.

**ALLISON MARIE QUINN (BA)** reports that she and Todd Durbin were married on Sept. 15, 2018. The couple lives in the Seattle area.

**JULIE SEIDENSTEIN (BA)** earned a JD in 2005 from Seattle University School of Law and is an attorney at the law firm of Lane Powell PC in Seattle. She was awarded The Best Lawyers in America 2019 for banking and finance. Julie has been married to her post-college sweetheart for 13 years and has two children: an 8-month-old girl and a 6-year-old boy.

**MICHAEL SPENCER (BS/BA)** writes, "I continue to work at SSC Pacific and am taking the lead for the Navy's network design facility for TTNT." In his spare time, he runs Scripps Mesa Fireworks, the nonprofit corporation that raises funds for the Fourth of July fireworks show in Mira Mesa, California.

**CHRISTOPHER WALKER (BBA)** is CEO of BBC Electric and writes, "I have been involved in the LA Metro project and the USC Village project. We are supplying the materials for both of these projects."





# MAKE USD PART OF YOUR FAMILY

Did you know a gift of only 5 percent\* of your estate can create a lasting legacy that will give back to future Toreros for generations to come?

Elizabeth ("Nancy") Gaffrey '92 (MSN) and her late husband, Robert ("Bob") Brennan, set up an endowed scholarship through their estate. "We used our life insurance policies to make this gift," Nancy explains. "We really consider USD to be a member of our family."

Create your own legacy at USD. Consider including the university as one of the beneficiaries to your own estate. To learn more, contact Erin Jones, CFRE, CSPG at (619) 260-4523 or email [ekjones@sandiego.edu](mailto:ekjones@sandiego.edu).

\*Based on an estate of \$1 million.

## [2003]

**BONNIE ANN DOWD (EDd)** was appointed Executive Vice Chancellor for the San Diego Community College District to the Community College Student Success Funding Formula Oversight Committee in January 2019. The committee was formed pursuant to an Assembly bill which specified that the Senate Rules Committee would appoint four members of the community to this committee. In the appointments made, Senate Rules made every effort to ensure geographic representation, diversity in background and expertise. This oversight committee will review the funding formula for all 73 districts and 115 community colleges in California.

## [2004]

**NANCY SLAVIN (MA)** writes, "On December 1, 2018, I was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco."

## [2005]

**KATIE CONLON (BA)** is working toward a PhD at Portland State University. She received a 2018-19 Fulbright Research Fellowship in Sri Lanka for research on plastic waste minimization in the Global South. She also does outreach and education in the region for zero waste and plastic pollution awareness.

**CHELSEA DINKINS (BA)** joined Gryph and IvyRose, a Miami-based startup baby company co-founded by model Karolina Kurkova. Chelsea is the marketing director; she reports that she loves "being part of a company that makes wonderful, high-quality wellness products for kids." Chelsea also has a 14-month-old son with her husband. "We love being back by the beach," she says.

## [2006]

**JIM GARDNER (BA)** left active duty as a Navy SEAL officer after 11 years of service. He writes, "Now pursuing HR leader opportunities in San Diego."

**DAVID LEWANDOWSKI (BBA)** is a corporate attorney at Fennemore Craig, serving entrepreneurs and high-tech companies.

**CHRISTINE MCKAY (BA)** is a social work supervisor at Harborview Medical Center–Madison Clinic, one of the largest HIV/primary care clinics in the Pacific Northwest. For nearly 10 years,

she has been working with individuals living with HIV and reports that more recent projects have focused on the prevention of HIV transmission by getting PrEP into the hands of those who need it the most. "Between work and parenting a toddler, life is busy!" she adds.

**BRIAN MELROSE (BA)** reports that he and Alexis Olsen '08 are married and have three beautiful children. Brian earned a master's degree in educational technology from San Diego State University in 2012.

**ILEANA OVALLE (MA)** holds the position of principal, privacy and regulatory, in Google's Global Trust and Safety department.

#### [2007]

**EMILY CLAWSON (BA)** writes, "I got promoted this year to supervisor of the Intercultural Competence, Diversity and Inclusion Training Specialist team at the Peace Corps."

**JONATHAN FOSTER (BAcc)** is a certified public accountant and an incoming partner for a CPA firm in Orange County, California. "Married with three wonderful kids!" he adds.

**MELANIE (MINO) HEAP (BA)** reports that she and her husband, Andrew, welcomed their second son, Ford Anthony, in the fall. "Our oldest son, Harris, is very excited to be a big brother," she says.

**ATHENA JUAREZ (BBA), '07 (BAcc)** and Gabriel Pallares '05 welcomed their first child, Elisa, on Aug. 21, 2018.

**NICOLE PENA (BA)** and her husband, Garrick Higgins, have a beautiful 2-year-old named Mia Valentina.

#### [2008]

**BRENDA FISCHER (PhD)** writes, "Leading healthcare organizations to successful achievement of ANCC Magnet designation and redesignation."

**KRISTEN GOODELL (BA)** and her husband, Greg, have a 10-month-old daughter, Kambria. The family lives in Carlsbad, California. Kristen is a licensed marriage and family therapist with a private practice in downtown Carlsbad; Greg is a senior real estate agent with Redfin. Kristen and her family enjoy going on hikes with their dog, Scotland.

**MEGAN ROBERSON (BA)** is in the inaugural class of the three-year pharmacy doctoral program at the University of California, San Francisco. Her husband, Zachary Moody '08, is an active-duty U.S. Navy officer specializing in meteorology and oceanography. "Megan has supported me entirely over the last decade as we have moved from duty station to duty station every two years," Zachary says. "I am currently at my last duty station and will be retiring in just over a year. We will keep you posted about our adventures as Megan takes the reins and it is my turn to follow her! Thank you for the great magazine and terrific alumni group."

**J.T. ROGAN (BBA)** reports that he married Mara Koplitz '13 on July 14, 2018, in Enumclaw, Washington. After living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for two years, the couple relocated to Walnut Creek, California, where J.T. is working with QB Collective, a football startup company, while Mara is continuing her work in the accounting field. They add that they are excited to be closer to home.

#### [2009]

**LIZ BARLOW (BBA)** reports that in 2018 she got engaged, graduated from the University of Colorado's Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant program and started working as a physician assistant with Greenwood Pediatrics in Colorado.

**LESLIE REYES (BA)** reports that she was married at The Immaculata in April 2016 and had her first daughter in May 2018. Leslie is working to build her law firm and anticipates hiring an associate in 2019.

**JENSEN SHIRLEY (EdD)** earned a master's degree in professional clinical counseling from Walden University in 2017 with a specialization in military family services.

**MELISSA (CARRADE) SMITH (BAcc)** welcomed a son, Connor William, on June 6, 2018.

**ZIARA SOTO (BAcc)** writes, "Happily married to Edward Ibarra and proud mother of a 6-year-old daughter, Alessandra Valentina." After serving as a staff accountant for a San Diego property management firm for seven years, she joined Westcore Properties in San Diego in 2016 as a senior accountant.

**LOUIS VARGAS (BA)** reports that he and Stephanie Kishbaugh '09 were married on Oct. 13, 2018, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, surrounded by family and friends.

## 2010s

#### [2010]

**ASHLEY HALBERDA (JD)** was promoted to partner at Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger, an employment, labor and business immigration law firm. Ashley has had many years of experience using her expert advice to guide employers through movements like Me Too and Time's Up, lending expert advice to employers on how to protect themselves through such policy changes. She also has a special emphasis on employment defense in the hospitality industry.

**GABRIELLE MCGINNIS (BA)** has spent the past four years in Australia working on her PhD, which included working in remote Aboriginal communities to develop sustainable tourism and heritage conservation digital outputs for, with and by the communities. The Wagiman people of Pine Creek in the Northern Territory of Australia worked with her to create websites and maps of their country to share with tourists, younger Wagiman generations and the world: [www.visitpinecreek.com](http://www.visitpinecreek.com) and <https://pcaaa7.wixsite.com/wagiman-pinecreek>. Gabriella also researched, wrote and edited policy documents for the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the 2016 UN General Assembly resolution and report, which is published on the UNGA portal of UN resolutions.

**BEVERLY (HUTCHINGS) MIELING (BA)** and her husband, John, report that they welcomed another boy, Kenton Calvin, on March 17, 2018.

**SARAH MIRALLES (BA)** earned a master's degree in ethnic studies from San Francisco State University. She also taught Asian American/Filipinx American Studies in local high schools and community colleges through Pin@y Educational Partnerships. Sarah now teaches Asian American/Ethnic Studies at California State University Long Beach and is involved with the Asian American Advisory Board at The Claremont Colleges.

#### [2011]

**AUDREY (WOLFFE) CASTLEBERY (BA, MAPJ '14)** and her husband, Christopher '13, welcomed a daughter, Rémy May, in November 2018. Audrey is the manager of the general resources department for the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and Christopher works for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### [2012]

**MERCEDES (KASTNER) CONSTANTINE (BS), '12 (MBA)** reports that she and her husband, James '11, were married in Santorini, Greece, in August 2018. She handles strategy and operations for the creative marketing group at Netflix.

**JORDAN CUMMINGS (BA)** is in her sixth year of teaching; her current position is as a kindergarten teacher in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. "I absolutely love working with the little ones and watching them grow and learn," Jordan says.

**JASMINE STOFKO (MA)** reports that she and her husband, Ben, welcomed a baby boy in December 2017. She was promoted to assistant director of admissions at Chapman University's College of Performing Arts.

**ALEXA STROBRIDGE (BBA)** moved to Indiana for a new job as senior marketing manager with the Indianapolis Colts.

**KURT WHITMAN (JD)** joined the law firm of Gatzke Dillon & Ballance in Carlsbad, California. He practices in the areas of land use, real estate and litigation.

**DANIEL YAGHOUBZADEH (JD)** was named a 2019 Rising Star by Super Lawyers Southern California.

#### [2012]

**ALEXANDRA (PREVITE) KREITZER (BA)** and her husband, David, were married on Oct. 20, 2018, at Founders Chapel. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Bora Bora and they live in New York City, where Alexandra and David both work in the finance industry.

**CATHERINE QUIRK (BA)** reports that she and Chris Hanneke '12 were married in 2018.

**NICOLE SCHMIDT (BA)** has a new job as a marketing strategist





[unruffled]

# GETTING MESSY

**Zen and the serendipitous art of finding your bliss**

by *Julene Snyder*

**T**here's a coziness factor that's unmistakable. On this particular afternoon, it's evoked by the pleasing smell of burning wood and the sense that there is no earthly need to hurry.

Around a long table, some people are planting succulents, others stenciling an "intention word" onto boxes before moving on to wood burning.

Jayne (Miller) Sanders '04 (BA) is serene as she interacts with a few dozen members of a corporate human resources team. She chats with one for a moment,

then kneels beside another who's tracing her stencil with the glowing wood burning tool. While the various words are simple, they're deeply personal: Thrive. Wonder. Vibrant. Blessed. Warrior.

Sanders is in her element. She loves working with her hands, and has given a lot of thought to how now, in particular, people crave tactile sensations.

"Tech has hurt us in a lot of ways," she says, after attendees have scattered, each cradling their own personalized succulent box. "When we make something

with our hands — even if it's not perfect — we're proud, because we made it."

That's the point of Mint Studio, which offers workshops, retreats, experiential outings and more. Lately, Sanders is getting a lot of work from organizations seeking team-building experiences for their employees. "They get how important it is to invest in their people and for them to have connection time away from the needs of the office," she says.

Making art has been a part of Sanders' life since she was a little

girl. "I spent every summer crafting and doing art with my grandmother. She really loved every kind of art." Those memories still resonate. "When you spend time with someone making something, you form deeper memories."

Her path to the University of San Diego was serendipitous. "I accidentally logged into USD's website when I had been looking for UCSD's site," she says with a melodic laugh. "I saw that it was Catholic and decided to visit campus." After a tour, she was convinced USD was the place for her.

After graduation, Sanders — who earned her degree in molecular biology — had assumed she'd go directly to med school. "There was a transformational moment when I'd gotten my MCAT scores, and I thought, 'Now I can go to whatever med


school I want to. Why do I not feel happy?" One of her mentors, Father J.J. O'Leary, met her for coffee to help her navigate which fork in the road to take.

"He talked about paying attention to where your heart is drawn." She worked in a lab for a time, but unfulfilled, transitioned to the world of finance, ultimately running her own company. Along the way, she married and started a family.

"Things got busy with our three kids, so I stayed home with them until our youngest started kindergarten." She'd given considerable thought to what would come next. "Joseph Campbell's message about following your bliss really rang true to me. You're always going to be pulled back to what you loved as a child, and for me, that was art."

Mint Studio was born, which has a storefront in Carlsbad. The space was deliberately designed to be laidback and inviting. "I don't want people to think it's too pretty to get messy in," she says. "This is a place to create and spill paint on the floor." Mint is now expanding to places like San Francisco, New York and Florida, with a corresponding expansion of creatives, makers and artists who make up the Mint Collective.

"We're expanding our reach internationally, with a special focus on preserving and protecting these regions' culture and history," she explains.

Closer to home, Sanders is thrilled to bring her offerings to USD's campus community; she's worked with the Torero Program Board for years to provide experiences for students on campus. "It feels really good to have the university's support. It's like family, really. People who have your back, and are really rooting for you." 

 [sandiego.edu/jayme](https://sandiego.edu/jayme)



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at Chapman University in Orange, California.

**STEPHANIE (ATIENZA) VIANA (BA)** writes, "I just got married in March of 2018 and started a new job at the Walt Disney Company this past October!"

## **[2013]**

**SOPHIA CARRILLO (BA)** graduated from Stanford Law School, where she continued her interest in human rights advocacy and represented women and children in immigration detention, asylum seekers and an individual seeking executive clemency. She also received the John Hart Ely prize for excellence in American constitutional history. Sophia is a judicial clerk for a federal judge in Sacramento, California. She says that she looks forward to a career in litigation and hopes to teach law someday.

**EDDIE FAAMAILE (BBA)** worked in the mortgage industry from graduation through June 2018. He is now working on creating a new business idea in the realm of real estate.

**ELIZABETH LEIRO (BA)** launched a podcast in early 2018 focused on writing and related creative topics. She is currently revising her first novel and drafting her second.

**JULIAN LEIRO (BA)** earned a master's degree from the University of Utah and is now working at Viking Cruises in Woodland Hills, California.

**ALEXANDRA MEDRANO (BA)** joined the Teach for America corps in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She taught Spanish at her placement school, Harrison High School, for three years and then moved to Vail, Colorado, to continue teaching Spanish for native speakers. She is now pursuing a master's degree in educational equity and cultural diversity with an emphasis in bilingual education at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is also teaching Spanish 1 and *Español Para Hispanohablantes 1* at an award-winning public charter school, Denver School of Science and Technology: Conservatory Green.

**ROMYN SABATCHI (BBA)** moved to Oahu, Hawaii, to be an academic adviser.

**ELLEN THOMPSON (BAcc)** reports that she was married in September 2018, and a month later was promoted to assurance manager at EY.

#### [2014] 🎓

**RICK BLANKE (BA)** is a financial adviser for the Blanke Schein Group in Palm Desert, California. He reports that he has been married for four years and has two children.

**AINI FANG (MEd)** is originally from Shanghai, China, and has been active in education since graduating from USD. "I brought what I have learned in USD and applied it into my teaching practice," Aini says. "I have a passion for immersion education and inquiry-based learning in elementary school."

**DANA (WILLIAMS) LEAHY (BBA)** reports that she met her husband, Chris, at USD and they married in October 2018. Dana is a project manager at Northrop Grumman and Chris is a captain in the Marine Corps.

**DANIELLA LISLE (BBA)** is the community development manager at the American Cancer Society (ACS) of Alaska, where she oversees the Anchorage Wine and Food Festival, the largest fundraising event for ACS and for the state of Alaska. Daniella also oversees other large-scale ACS fundraising events throughout the state and serves as the staff liaison for several ACS volunteer committees.

**ASHLEY (KLAHR) LUSSIER (BA)** reports that she was married in the last year and became a mom to her husband's 5-year-old daughter. "We moved up to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington and began our lives together!" she says.

**ALEXANDRIA MORGAN (MA)** completed her master's degree in marital and family therapy and started a private practice, Her Healing, in Los Angeles.

**LARRY NOVELO (BS/BA)** was promoted to continuous improvement specialist with the U.S. Postal Service and is based in Washington, D.C.

**LAUREN STERN (MA)** is a licensed professional clinical counselor and a national certified counselor. She works with adolescents and adults, providing therapy to individuals, couples and families. Her specializa-

tions include depression, anxiety, mood and personality disorders, trauma and stress management.

#### [2016]

**KRYSTELLE ASHBAUGH (BA)** works as a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher for the Diocese of San Diego. "I'm using the knowledge I gained here at USD to give my students the best education and to prepare them for their future," she says.

**JIMMY BRIED (BBA)** joined CareerBuilder as a major account executive managing enterprise accounts in the Southwest after graduating from USD. He made president's club and finished at 109 percent his first year and 98 percent the second year, winning the Q4 Award of Excellence. He is in Pepperdine University's Flex MBA program and moved to Seattle to be a cloud sales consultant for enterprise accounts in the Northeast.

**CAROLINE BUYAK (BA)** is a legislative assistant for U.S. Representative Martha Roby.

**MACKENZIE DANDROY (BS/BA)** left Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, reports her mom, Cindy Dandroy. Mackenzie is now handling industrial and system engineering projects for Universal Studios.

**TAZ DE ALENCAR (BA)** moved back to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to start a company with his brothers and parents based on integrating sports and education. He notes that "this is very common in our experience living abroad in the USA, but not normal in Brazil, where athletes are taught to disregard school if they want to professionalize themselves in a sport." The family created Techset Academy, a training center that integrates education with sports. In addition, Taz developed magikk.com, a college-based social community that enables individuals to "find good deals and do good deeds" using the currency of karma credits.

**STEPHEN FERRARO (BA)** finished his second year of medical school at the University of Washington.

**EMILY FRASER (BA)** works for Kyle House Group, an international government relations firm.

**COURTNEY GALLIMORE (MSN)** is a nurse practitioner at Falmouth Hospital.

**KAREN (HARRIS) MATHIS (MSEI)** expects to publish a fashion book in March 2019.

**ZACH MELLEN (MA)** is the event manager for the EU Policy Outreach Partnership.

**ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ THOMPSON (MA)** was elected co-president of the San Diego Leadership Alliance with the mission of developing progressive leaders for San Diego. "I utilize many of the skills I learned in the SOLES Nonprofit Management and Leadership program in this role, collaborating with board members to craft a vision and execute our mission," Ashley says.

#### [2017]

**MEREDITH CLINE (MS)** completed her master's degree in law enforcement and public safety leadership at USD. She is a detective in the sexual assault investigations department for the Los Angeles Police Department.

**ZACHARY DWECK (BA)** is in the comedy talent department at ICM Partners.

**KAREN (CLARK) MEZA (BA), '18 (MA)** reports that she was married in June, finished her master's degree and started working at her former middle school teaching seventh-grade history. "Crazy 2018 — can't wait to see what God has in store for 2019," she says.

#### [2018]

**GARY DINOSO (MS)** writes, "In my last semester of graduate school, I founded my first company with the help of The Brink at the University of San Diego." Established in 2018, Beyond the Bedside ensures that registered nurses have a chance to explore alternative career paths. "Through industry knowledge, unlimited opportunities and a job board platform, we are dedicated to supporting nurses who want to thrive in nontraditional roles and environments so they can provide patient care in a unique way."

**LEIF KJONEGAARD (MBA)** reports that he is married with four kids and is managing business for Thyssenkrupp Elevator Corp.

in the Hawaiian Islands, and enjoys surfing and paddling. "Living a blessed life," he says.

**MARY KUCKERTZ (BA)** is a lab assistant in a child clinical psychology lab at the University of California, San Diego. Mary started in the lab as an intern at the end of her sophomore year after the USD psychology department recommended the internship to her. Two years later, it turned into a full-time job. "Thanks USD, for getting me connected," she says.

**MARIANA MONTES (BA)** writes, "I've been busy working at the San Diego Eye Bank." She adds that her manager is a USD alum as well.

**PRISCILLA PEREZ (BA)** joined the International Rescue Committee in San Diego as an AmeriCorps VIP fellow in September 2018.

**CHANDLER ROGERS (BS/BA)** is an electrical engineer for Black & Veatch, where he designs and updates hydroelectric plants.

**ABIGAIL SCHRADER (BA)** is on the media team at a digital advertising agency in downtown Portland, Oregon.

**SAMUEL SELLERS (MS)** is in law enforcement and was promoted from detective to corporal.

**JUSTINA TRUSEVICH (MEd)** is a math teacher at Del Lago Academy in Escondido, California.

## In Memoriam

**GREG STOCKING '84 (BA)** passed away.

## Send Class Notes

*Please note that content for USD Magazine has a long lead time. Publication of Torero Notes typically occurs 4-6 months after we receive them.*

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# THE BIG PICTURE



THE BIG PICTURE THE BIG PICTURE THE BIG PICTURE THE BIG PICTURE THE BIG PICTURE



**TEN MILLION IS A BIG NUMBER.** That's how many views photos taken by Elazar Harel, USD's interim chief information officer, have racked up. "I discovered my right brain several years ago," he says. "I started taking pictures and found that people liked them." He shot the above photo looking out of an archway from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice toward the Garden of the Sea on a rainy afternoon. "I've always loved that spot. The reflection on the ground and the drops in the water struck me as beautiful." See more at [elazarharel.com](http://elazarharel.com).





Instagram



JOSE TURRUBIAZ / SUMMER INTERNSHIP AWARD

@usdcareers



DR. HARRIS / USD MEN'S RETREAT

@usdpres



JULIA ROCCATO / SUMMER STUDENT INTERNSHIP

@usdcareers



LIZA KUZNETSOVA / USD SWIM TEAM

@usdtoreros



OLE WEEKEND / WELCOMING STUDENTS TO CAMPUS

@uofsandiego



HOT SPRINGS ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER

@usd\_outdooradventures



LEA BOUTON / SERVING AS USD NAVAL OFFICER FOR SEVEN YEARS

@gousdalumni



WATER RESTORATION PROJECT IN TAUWHARE, NEW ZEALAND

@usd\_outdooradventures



RWANDA'S COFFEE PLANTATIONS

@krocschool

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**June – August  
Summer Send-Offs**

[sandiego.edu/sendoff](https://sandiego.edu/sendoff)



**June 28 – July 1  
European Alumni  
Reunion in Valencia  
and Madrid**

[toreronetwork.sandiego.edu/  
europe](https://toreronetwork.sandiego.edu/europe)



**July 14  
USD Wine Classic**

[usdwineclassic.com](https://usdwineclassic.com)



**August 31 – Sept. 3  
OLE! Weekend and  
Parent Orientation**

[sandiego.edu/orientation](https://sandiego.edu/orientation)



**September 1  
Mass of Welcome**

[sandiego.edu/mission](https://sandiego.edu/mission)



**September 7  
Football Home Opener  
USD vs. UC Davis**

[USDToreros.com](https://USDToreros.com)



**September 12  
Mass of the Holy Spirit**

[sandiego.edu/mission](https://sandiego.edu/mission)



**October 3 – 6  
Homecoming and  
Family Weekend**

[sandiego.edu/hfw](https://sandiego.edu/hfw)